

Blast reported near Israeli post

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — An explosion, believed to be an attack on an Israeli post, occurred on the outskirts of the port of Tyre Saturday, police said. The explosion was heard at dawn near an Israeli position at the entrance to Tyre, 76 kilometres south of Beirut, but the police had no details. Falangist Radio in Beirut said two rockets were fired at the Israelis in the incident and Israeli soldiers manning the post fired back in all directions. Police also reported a blast in Nabatieh, an inland market town 57 kilometres south of the capital where the Israelis and their local militia allies often face attacks. They said the Israelis sealed off the area. In the face of increasing restrictions imposed by the Israelis, commandos have mounted attacks on them almost daily and sometimes several times a day.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Arafat arrives in Jeddah for talks

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived Saturday in the Saudi Arabian Red Sea city of Jeddah, the official Saudi Press Agency said. PLO sources in Saudi Arabia said Mr. Arafat was expected to brief King Fahd on the organisation's latest efforts to patch up its differences which began more than a year ago. Mr. Arafat said in Algeria last Saturday that the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's highest decision-making body, would meet between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15 in Algiers. The meeting, out off several times since the PNC last met 18 months ago, is expected to ratify agreements reached by rival PLO factions in Aden and Algiers earlier this year on the split within the organisation.

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King sends good wishes to Suharto

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes to Indonesian President Suharto congratulating the Indonesian leader in the King's name and on behalf of the government and people of Jordan on the anniversary of the Indonesian Independence Day. In his cable King Hussein wished the Indonesian people further progress and prosperity to achieve his aspirations.

Kuwait bank lends \$50m to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Kuwait National Bank will give a \$50 million in short term credit facilities to the Finance Ministry in accordance with an agreement signed here Saturday. The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and for the Kuwait bank by its director general, Ya'qoub Al Fuleij.

Kuwait, Pakistan review OIC bid

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Pakistan Saturday discussed plans by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to try and negotiate an end to the 47-month-old Gulf war, government officials said. Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah received Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan who delivered a message from his country's President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on Middle East developments and bilateral relations, they said.

Greece boycotts NATO exercise

ATHENS (AP) — Greece will take part in a NATO exercise in the Western Mediterranean in October, but not in another in the Aegean Sea next month, the government announced Friday night. The announcement said Greece will join forces from Italy, Britain, Turkey and the United States for the month-long exercise "Deterrent Forces" beginning Oct. 10, in the Mediterranean and Ionian seas. However, the announcement said, Greece will not participate in the "Display Determination" manoeuvres in the Aegean Sea Sept. 17 to Oct. 20 because the Greek island of Lemnos was not included in the exercise scenario.

Blast damages Aeroflot office

KARACHI (R) — The Karachi office of the Soviet airline Aeroflot was damaged by an explosion Saturday, police said. The office is located on the ground floor of a luxury hotel and witnesses said the explosive device was thrown by a motorcyclist. Police would give no further details pending investigations.

Turner seeks talks with Chernenko

WINNIPEG, Canada (R) — Canadian Prime Minister John Turner, trying to revive his predecessor Pierre Trudeau's world peace crusade ahead of elections here, has asked for a meeting with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko.

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King: International conference on basis of 242 is key to peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 serves as a basis for solving the Middle East issue but certain elements should be introduced into that resolution to make it more viable.

The resolution, issued in 1967, overlooked important elements as it did not handle the Palestine problem in a proper manner, the King said in an interview with the American television "Cable News Network."

The King said he believed that an international conference on the Middle East in which all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict can furnish all necessary elements to a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian people should be involved in any such conference, the King added.

The King stressed the need of implementing Resolution 242 which calls for a total Israeli withdrawal in exchange for comprehensive peace and the recognition of the rights of all to enjoy that peace.

Jordan, he said, has been responsive to all peace efforts but was not lucky enough to reach a lasting peace. Jordan has worked with the United States for years and attached great hopes on the United States' vital role and still hopes that the U.S. can and should help in establishing peace, but unfortunately Jordan has in the past few years witnessed a retreat in U.S. stands adopted in 1967, the King said.

At present, he added, Israel is carrying out demographic changes throughout the occupied Arab lands and enjoys U.S. support militarily, politically and materially. The U.S. has in fact become an ally of Israel and this has greatly damaged the U.S. credibility and rendered it incapable of playing a neutral role in the peace process, the King said.

He pointed out that the Soviet Union has a role to play in establishing peace and Moscow would oppose any attempt to handle the issue behind its backs. Also, he said, there are other nations too which are concerned with the establishment of peace in the Middle East and that calls for the international community to take part in drafting a solution.

King Hussein said that he was concerned over the U.S. and Israeli rejection of a Soviet-sponsored call for an international peace conference on the Middle East, and said this stand causes a loss of hope that makes the region more explosive and dangerous. If no speedy action is taken now, it would soon be too late for it, the King warned.

The King reviewed the various peace initiatives for the Middle East and cited U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposals, and said the proposals were rejected outright by the Israelis who res-



ponded by building more settlements in the occupied Arab territories with backing from the U.S. directly or indirectly. The events in Lebanon came to furnish more proof that the U.S. has lost its credibility with the Arabs and has lost its role as a peace mediator, the King said.

In reply to a question on what he expects from the U.S. to do, the King said that the U.S. should ac-

cept the idea of an international conference in which the Palestinians, along with all other parties involved in the conflict and perhaps the five permanent members of the Security Council should take part, so that a lasting peace formula can be found to the whole issue.

The U.S. has lost its credibility whereas the Soviet Union continues to consolidate its own in the Arab region, because the U.S., unlike the Soviet Union, has no consistent policy vis-a-vis the Arab region, the King said.

In the U.S., Congress has its own influence on foreign policies as well as the presidential elections and the various political groups, and this causes a continual change and retreat in the U.S. foreign policy, the King pointed out.

In reply to another question, King Hussein said he has great respect for President Reagan, whom he described as a great man of principles and courage.

The King said his criticism was directed not against President

(Continued on page 3)

Multi-national minesweepers launch operations in Red Sea

CAIRO (Agencies) — The U.S. helicopter carrier Shreveport deployed air and seaborn sonar scanners as British and French minesweepers took up position Saturday in a multinational effort to clear the Gulf of Suez and Red Sea of explosives.

Military sources said the Shreveport began operating Friday in the mid to southern part of the Gulf, while British minesweepers took up positions Saturday in the northern part.

They said the hunt would not interfere with commercial shipping in the Gulf and the Red Sea, where at least 18 ships have hit mines in the past six weeks.

U.S. RH-53 minesweeping helicopters have been operating in the Red Sea near the Saudi port of Jeddah since Thursday.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry said the French minesweepers Cantho and Dompierre were also starting operations Saturday in Saudi waters near Jeddah.

Two other French minesweepers, Eridan and Cassiopee, would arrive in the Gulf of Suez in the middle of next week, it said.

The Egyptian navy, using some of its 12 Soviet-built minesweepers, also is working in the

Gulf, military quoted by the Associated Press sources said. But the Egyptians are using "olgo" minesweeping techniques aimed at detonating marine explosives.

So far, no mines have been found by any of the forces involved, the sources said.

American military experts have examined two of the ships hit by explosions and have confirmed that the damage was caused by an external explosion consistent with that of a mine. The initial conclusion of the experts is that the mines are laid on the bottom of the sea, rather than floating or buoyed mines.

Because they explode deep under water, the shrapnel is absorbed and damage caused by shock waves.

One military source said that a normal mine containing 250 or 500 kilograms of explosives would be expected to hole or cripple a ship. That has not been the case with any of the vessels damaged so far, leading specialists to believe that the mines are small and perhaps meant only to send a political message to someone rather than destroy shipping.

The pattern of the explosions so far has led military experts to believe that the planners of the mine-

ing were aiming at "choke points" in the Suez Gulf and the Red Sea — that is, points at which there is very little room for shipping to be diverted.

That is the case with the Bab Al Mandeb Strait at the entrance to the Red Sea from the Arabian Sea, the northern end of the Suez Canal, and other areas such as that near Ras Shukheir in the southern Gulf where traffic is congested by oil rigs.

Only one claim of responsibility has been made for the mining — that by a pro-Iranian group calling itself Islamic Jihad, that says which says it planted 192 mines in the Gulf and Red Sea.

Egypt has pointed the finger at Libya, and possibly Iran. The Egyptians have begun stopping and searching suspect ships in the canal, including several from Iran and Libya. The Egyptians have brushed aside Iranian threats of retaliation if their ships are hindered or searched.

"We do not bother about any threat," said a source at the Suez Canal Authority, who declined to be named. "We are going ahead with the search of any suspect ship of any nationality."

Karami, blasting U.S. indifference, says Lebanon may seek U.N. help

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami charged Saturday that the United States had done nothing to stop Israel's "inhuman repression" in occupied South Lebanon and said his government plans to take the case to the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Karami told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with President Amin Gemayel that a final decision on lodging a complaint with the 15-nation council and seeking intervention against Israel would be made at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

"The United States has exercised no pressure to stop this inhuman repression" in southern Lebanon, Mr. Karami said. "So we are discussing a case at the U.N. Security Council to put things in their right course."

Local radio stations said Mr. Karami and Nabih Berri, the state minister for southern Lebanon, had made several pleas to President Ronald Reagan's administration in the past two weeks to bring pressure to bear on Israel. The pleas were made through Reginald Bartholomew, the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, according to the broadcasts.

"The message we've got is that the United States is totally indifferent," Mr. Karami said.

U.S. officials here have said that the Lebanese must work out their own solution with Israel. They

have been particularly adamant about the U.S. maintaining a neutral stance since Lebanon last March cancelled the U.S.-brokered troop withdrawal agreement it had negotiated with Israel in 1983.

Mr. Karami's statement followed reports of new travel restrictions imposed by the Israeli army across the Bate-Jezzine crossing, the only practical gateway linking the occupied south third of the country with the rest of Lebanon.

State and privately owned radio stations said Israeli authorities had put up posters at the crossing that said taxis and cars would be banned from the gateway as of Sunday and trucks as of Aug. 29.

This means civilians would have to cross into and out of the south on foot, and truck owners would have to unload their cargos and carry them across.

Several Beirut newspapers viewed the new restrictions as retaliation for the closure of Israel's liaison office in east Beirut last month and escalated commando attacks on the Israeli army in the south.

However, Arab news agencies and Beirut newspapers have said that the Israelis have begun the implementation of a plan to divert the waters of two Lebanese rivers.

United Nations observers have not been allowed by the Israelis to

enter a fenced-off area near the Haspini River in the occupied south.

Israel has denied it plans to divert Lebanese waters but the Israeli clampdown in the south and the refusal by the occupation forces to allow U.N. observers into the area indicate that "they (the Israelis) are up to something," according to a political observer in Beirut.

The Lebanese government is seeking to prevent Israel from implementing the reported plan and once the extent of the plan is revealed will approach Arab and international bodies to seek help, according to well-informed sources quoted by Arab news agencies.

Mr. Karami also said after his meeting with Mr. Gemayel at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda that a security plan to extend government authority to the central Lebanese mountains would be "carried out in stages."

The mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party has agreed with the army on disengaging their forces along an eight-kilometre confrontation line, but disagreements persist in the cabinet on extending the plan to cover the entire region.

Mr. Karami retained his optimism: "The process... will go on towards its objectives of the country's unity, liberation and overall reform."

PLO official accuses U.S., Israel of Red Sea mining

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Saturday accused the U.S. and Israel of mining the Red Sea with the aim of "creating instability in the area and encircling the national liberation movements in the Middle East."

Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the political bureau of the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview that "the American and Israeli intelligence are behind the mining of the Red Sea."

Since they are the only parties to benefit from such an operation," he said. In Mr. Abu Sharif's view, which is believed to reflect the view of all left-wing Palestinian factions, Israel and the U.S. aim at "causing instability in the area and to find a way to contain the rising national liberation movements in the area."

The PFLP official believes that in recent months that U.S. has incurred political losses in the area represented in the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon.

Commenting on the presence of a U.S. minesweeping fleet in the Red Sea, Mr. Abu Sharif said: "The Red Sea crisis, which we strongly believe to be the making of the Americans and Israelis, has allowed the American military to increase its presence in the area and to return to the doors which were opened for them."

The PFLP official who is currently in Algiers to attend a meeting of six PLO factions, urged Arab countries to "maintain solidarity to bear their national responsibilities in the face of the American-Israeli threat."

Mr. Abu Sharif warned that the instability created in the area would be used to prolong the stay of the multi-national fleet in the area and would obstruct efforts to put an end to the four-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Politics bogs down UNIDO conference

VIENNA (R) — A United Nations conference on boosting industry in developing countries was bogged down in a political wrangle Saturday that cast doubt on a communiqué being issued as scheduled.

Delegates at the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) conference said representatives of the Third World, the communist states and the industrialised West were at loggerheads over the wording of a final document.

"There is still a lot of work to be done," said UNIDO spokesman Enrique Aguilar, announcing that the final plenary meeting set for Saturday afternoon had been put back indefinitely.

The conference has been going on for 17 days and officials have already predicted it might continue into Sunday.

When a journalist jokingly pleaded for the conference to end before Sunday's televised Austrian Grand Prix, one official commented: "I fear they will have finished going round in their circles before we have finished going round in ours."

The developing countries want a comprehensive document emphasising what they regard as key elements hindering development, including high interest rates, growing debts and protectionism by wealthy countries.

Western states, in particular the United States, say that such issues should be discussed in other forums.

Protestants create havoc in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Protestant youths rampaged through the streets of Belfast for a third night in succession Friday night, ignoring appeals for calm from community leaders.

Police said groups of youths roamed the Protestant Shankill Road district, setting fire to shops and vehicles and throwing stones and petrol bombs at police.

Protestant sources said the youths were angry at the use by police of informers to capture Protestant leaders.

Police used plastic bullets to restore order and said they made eight arrests. Four people were slightly injured.

Police said one patrol came under sniper fire early Saturday after three similar attacks a night earlier. No-one was hit in any of

the incidents.

Sniper attacks on the police are rare in a district inhabited by majority Protestants, normally staunchly pro-British.

Protestant leaders said Friday the youths were wrong to adopt the violent tactics used by those fighting to end British rule in the province.

A spokesman at Belfast police headquarters said the gunmen, believed to be Protestants, fired several bursts at two armoured police vehicles from automatic weapons. The spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said none of the officers was hit.

Reporters in the Shankill Road area Friday night saw more than 20 injured people carried from the scene as police in armoured vehicles went between blazing barricades, firing volleys of plastic bullets at the screaming rioters.

An official of the Democratic Unionist Party said the riots sapped police resources and a spokesman for the Ulster Defence Association, a Protestant paramilitary group, urged local politicians to do all they could to stop the violence worsening.

It began after fighting broke out in court on Wednesday at the trial of 47 Protestants accused of offences including murder and membership of the banned Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). All were sent for trial on the evidence of a former UVF member turned informer.

In Northern Ireland guerrilla offences are tried by judges sitting without a jury.

Mr. Rama Rao says he is backed by a majority of parliamentarians in the 295-seat assembly.

"We will take 162 of them to New Delhi on Monday to meet President Zail Singh and prove we have a majority," the party's secretary-general, P. Upendra, told Reuters.

The new government is headed by N. Bhaskara Rao, Mr. Rama Rao's former finance minister,

Panamanian ship hit in Gulf attack

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A Panamanian oil tanker was set on fire in a missile attack in the Gulf Saturday, the 21st confirmed victim of air strikes in the waterway since mid-April.

A missile set its starboard tanks of the 47,310-ton Endeavour ablaze, but crewmen controlled the fire and there were no casualties.

The Endeavour's Greek managers said in Athens that all 28 crew, the captain's wife and two children were safe. The vessel later headed for Dubai under its own steam.

Saturday's air attack came in a zone where Iran has launched at least two missile attacks on tankers since early June. The last successful air strike in the Gulf was an Iraqi attack on a Liberian tanker on Aug. 7 as part of its blockade of Iranian ports in the Gulf war, now approaching its fifth year.

The Endeavour was heading from Kuwait to Northern Europe with a cargo of crude oil. It was near the Shah Allum Shoal, an area of shallows in the central Gulf some 70 miles east of the northern tip of Qatar, when the aircraft swooped and fired at 0710 GMT.

Last Wednesday, a Pakistani tanker, the M.T. Johar, narrowly escaped being hit by two air-to-sea missiles in the same area. The Endeavour's managers, Polembros Maritime Company, said the ship apparently lost only a little crude oil.

Military sources said the last victim of an apparent Iranian attack, the 133,035-ton tanker British Renown hit on July 10, was struck by two American-made Maverick missiles.

The U.S. navy recovered parts of the missile, including U.S.-manufactured lenses, the sources said.

One version of the Maverick used by the Iranian air force includes a television guidance system, with a lens in the projectile's nose transmitting pictures to a monitor screen in the attacking pilot's cockpit.

Iran purchased Maverick missiles while it enjoyed close military and political ties with the United States during the rule of the late Shah.

Since relations between the United States and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic republic soured, American weapons and spare parts are officially barred to Iran.

Iraqi attacks on shipping around Kharg Island and Iranian retaliations on shipping lower down the Gulf brought about a so-called tanker war that was at its height in May and June.

Iraq broke a month-long in the tanker war when its warplanes rocketed the Greek-owned Friendship I on Aug. 7 after it loaded oil at Kharg Island.

Gulf shipping circles had been braced for an Iranian retaliation since.

PLO says Israeli hands behind attack in Madrid

MADRID (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday blamed the Israeli secret service for the shooting Friday in downtown Madrid of a PLO member whose poem de guerre is Abu Said.

Police said Awadh Ahmad Salem, 44, was shot and seriously wounded in the neck by an assailant on a motorcycle as he rode in the front seat of a BMW Sedan belonging to a Syrian.

The driver and another passenger in the car were not hurt.

Police first identified the victim as Abu Said but after gave the name of Salem, which they said they found in a South Yemeni passport on the victim.

Initial reports in the local press said Salem was a South Yemeni diplomat.

Salem remained in critical condition in La Paz hospital Saturday following surgery.

In Kuwait, two daily newspapers said an Islamic revolutionary group had claimed responsibility for the attack by a gunman riding a motorcycle.

The papers, Al Seyassah and Al Qabas, said an anonymous caller said he spoke on behalf of a group called the Islamic Revolutionary Vanguard and that the shooting was in retaliation for the victim's connections with Iraq (See page 2).

The attack is the second involving Arabs in Spain in the past two weeks. A Pakistani chauffeur was killed and a Kuwaiti wounded in an attack on a Kuwaiti businessman in the southern resort of Marbella on Aug. 6. The businessman was not hurt.

2 more die in South Indian protests

HYDERABAD, India (R) — Two more people died Saturday in South India's Andhra Pradesh state when police opened fire to control a violent crowd attacking a police station.

Police told Reuters the latest deaths occurred in the state's southern district of Cuddapah when they fired to disperse the crowd. The action brought the death toll to 13 in protests against the sacking of the state's chief minister, N.T. Rama Rao, on Wednesday.

Mr. Rama Rao vowed to continue the fight against his dismissal.

Police said there were no other incidents Saturday.

Eyewitnesses said paramilitary troops watched large crowds gathered at a studio complex in Hyderabad, the state capital, where the film-star politician held talks

with supporters.

They said truckloads of his supporters drove into the city from across the state and tobacco growing state.

"The fight will continue in a peaceful manner till we achieve the goal of restoring democracy," Mr. Rama Rao told reporters.

His Telugu Desam party has called a protest meeting Sunday. Major national opposition leaders are expected to address it.

Most of the violence rocking the state has erupted in coastal strongholds of the party.

State Governor Ram Lal sacked Mr. Rama Rao on Wednesday, saying he had lost his majority in the state assembly.

The new government is headed by N. Bhaskara Rao, Mr. Rama Rao's former finance minister,

'Islamic revolutionary group' claims Madrid shooting

KUWAIT (Agencies) — An Islamic revolutionary group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attempt to kill a man in Spain carrying a South Yemeni diplomatic passport, two Arabic dailies said Saturday.

The group named their victim as Zaki Al Hilu, causing further confusion over the identity of the man whose passport named him as Awadh Ahmad Salem, 44, while another document on him bore the name Abu Said.

The "Al Seyassah" and "Al Qabas" said they received long distance calls from an unidentified person who said he spoke on behalf of a group which he called the "Islamic Revolutionary Vanguard". He would not say where he was.

The attempted killing, which left the victim in a critical condition, was in retaliation for his connections with Iraq, the caller told the newspapers without elaborating.

"We, the Islamic Revolutionary Vanguard, are responsible for the assassination attempt against Zaki Al Hilu in Madrid early Friday," the dailies quoted the caller as saying.

The man was shot in central Madrid by a gunman who fired a single pistol bullet at his car from a motorcycle. Two other people with him escaped unhurt.

The attack is the second involving Arabs in Spain in the last two weeks.

One man was killed and another injured in a failed attack on a Kuwaiti businessman in the southern resort of Marbella on Aug. 6.

Police said the victim was shot in the neck as he was riding in the

front passenger seat of a BMW Sedan bearing Spanish tourist plates reportedly belonging to the wife of one of the two other men in the car.

Police said the two other men, neither of whom was injured, were both from South Yemen but did not give their names. They said the men carried no identification.

At first, the local press reported that the victim was a South Yemeni diplomat, but police said the passport found on him was not a diplomatic passport. South Yemen does not have an embassy in Spain.

The victim was rushed to La Paz Hospital where he underwent surgery and was reported in very serious condition. The attack occurred near the Paseo de la Castellana in a fashionable neighbourhood of northern Madrid. Police said the victim had been on holiday in Spain for the past 38 days. They did not say where he had been before arriving in Spain.



MINE DAMAGE — The cargo ship Oceanic, Saudi Arabia, after being struck by mines on Aug. 5 (AP wirephoto)

War causing policy differences in Iran

By William Scally
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials say they are studying new evidence of policy differences in Iran but that it is too soon to determine if economic pressures caused by the war with Iraq will turn Tehran to a more moderate course.

The American officials say the war has confronted Iran with severe economic problems, hampering oil exports, eating into its treasury and drying up supplies of consumer goods.

The officials say the war has long been stalemated and that although Iraq has greatly improved its military position with the infusion of new weapons it is believed to have no chance of overcoming a nation with nearly three times its population.

Iran has been plagued by lack of new weapons and earlier this year failed to launch an expected mass offensive against the better-equipped Iraqi forces.

A U.S. official said Iran had apparently decided the cost would have been too great.

This week's dismissal by Iran's parliament of five members of the Iranian cabinet was seen here as

evidence of strains in the government brought about by the war.

Although U.S. officials said there had no sign of a drastic policy change and certainly no reason to anticipate a counter-revolution, they said there had been signs of moves to lessen the country's isolation.

Advocates of diplomatic isolation were criticised in this week's parliamentary debate by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

He said he had received direct guidelines from Revolutionary Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that were diametrically opposed to such isolation.

His remark followed a recent trip to Tehran by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the most senior Western official visitor since the revolution.

"I think they (the Iranians) were frightened by their isolation," Shireen Hunter, an Iran specialist with Georgetown University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said in an interview.

Iran, she said, had seen that the United States was turning towards Iraq and had shown determination

to respond to any Iranian adventurism in the Gulf.

The United States has rushed anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia and American reconnaissance planes provided data to the Saudi Air Force when it shot down an Iranian F-4 in early June.

Washington is also working on plans to bolster the defences of Kuwait, which announced this week that it had completed a purchase of air defence equipment from the Soviet Union.

The Reagan administration proclaims neutrality in the Gulf war but blames Iran for continuing the conflict and has emphasised the threat posed by what it calls Iranian "fanaticism".

Ms. Hunter, who was in the Iranian foreign service prior to the revolution, said that Iran's lack of weapons and its economic problems had strengthened the hands of the moderates.

She added that, although it was too early to determine whether the moderates were in the ascendancy, it had been shown that external factors could affect Iran's behaviour.

"Earlier it (Iran) was a stone wall," she said. "Now that wall is cracked."

'Hijacked' Iranians did not want to go home

ROME (R) — Three Iranians who did not return home on a hijacked Iranian plane said Friday many more passengers would have stayed had they been asked.

The men told a news conference they did not go back because of what they said was severe repression in Iran.

They said many of last week's 303 hijacked passengers expressed interest in remaining but did not know the legal procedure. A lawyer helping them said: "If we had been able to contact all the

passengers many would have chosen not to return."

On the night the plane went back to Iran, Iranian exiles and the leader of a left-wing Italian political party tried in vain to persuade police to let them ask passengers if they wanted to return.

The three who stayed said they slipped out of a Rome hotel where passengers were accommodated and were helped by opponents of Iranian Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

None of the men, aged 24, 25,

and 27, gave his name, and they hid behind newspapers to avoid being photographed.

The lawyer, Fausto Cerulli, said the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees gave them papers letting them stay in Italy for two months.

One of them said: "The repression in our country is terrible and there is no pity for the elderly, women or children."

Another said: "If you leave your house you have a 20 per cent chance of returning."

23 killed, 11 injured in Cairo house collapse

CAIRO (AP) — At least 23 people, including six children, were killed and 11 injured when an apartment building collapsed Thursday in a crowded middle-class residential area and rescue teams are still looking for the bodies of two repair workers and other possible victims.

Police officials could not be reached for comment.

Al Gomhuriya said residents of three neighbouring buildings affected by collapse have been evacuated.

The collapse of old apartment buildings in Cairo is common, mainly because a house shortage leaves many people no choice but to continue inhabiting doomed buildings.

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Jordanian-Palestinian relations are excellent, Laila Sharaf says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Laila Sharaf has described the Jordanian-Palestinian relations as excellent and said that the Jordanian-PLO talks are going on in a positive manner.

In an interview with the Saudi Arabian magazine "Al Majallah" the minister said that the two sides are determined to reach a formula on future relations but do not want to take hasty decisions.

In the interview published Saturday, Mrs. Sharaf said that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Amman recently was to continue the talks on coordination between the two sides, and added that the two sides now have almost identical views on various affairs.

In reply to a question about Jordan's position as to the improvement in relations between the PLO and Syria, Mrs. Sharaf said that Jordan welcomes any rapprochement among Arabs and supports a unity of Arab ranks.



Laila Sharaf

Asked to comment on the so-called Jordanian option, she said that the term means to consider Jordan as alternative state for the Palestinians and Jordan strongly rejects such a notion. "Jordan also refuses to act for the Palestinians in any future negotiations especially as it is now involved in a dialogue with the PLO," the minister added.

Masri to lead Jordanian delegation to Romania

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation led by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri is expected to visit Romania in the current week to represent Jordan at the National Day celebrations due on Aug. 23.

Another Jordanian delegation

is expected to go to West Germany and the United Kingdom later this month.

The high-powered delegation will meet with officials in both countries.

Iraqi minister praises Egypt's Gulf initiative

CAIRO (Petra) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has described an Egyptian initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war as positive.

In an interview with the Cairo weekly Al-Ahram, Mr. Aziz said that Egypt can use its Arab and international influence within the Non-Aligned Movement to seek peace.

Egypt, he said, has so far "exerted good efforts to achieve peace and these efforts are of great importance".

Mr. Aziz reiterated his country's desire for peace and said

Baghdad would be willing to implement the Egyptian initiative or any other to reach that goal.

"If Iran continue to reject all peace bids, it would be impossible to arrive at peace," Mr. Aziz added.

The Iraqi minister denied reports that his government had withdrawn 20,000 troops from the southern battlefield. "On the contrary," he said "we sent more reinforcements lately because we never ruled out the possibility of a new Iranian offensive."

Kurdish separatists raided Turkish towns, Ankara says

ANKARA (R) — A gendarmerie soldier was killed and 12 people wounded in two separate guerrilla raids in the Kurdish region of Turkey this week, the government said Friday.

A gendarmerie station in the south eastern town of Erzurum was attacked on Wednesday night with bombs and other weapons and one soldier killed and six soldiers and three civilians wounded, an official statement said.

The same night an open air officers' mess, officers' lodgings and a gendarmerie station in the town of Semdinli, 200 kilometres away, were sprayed with gunfire, wounded one officer, a non-commissioned officer and a soldier, it added.

The statement referred only to separatist groups, the official term for Kurdish guerrillas seeking independence from Turkey. Turkey has some eight million Kurds.

Travellers arriving in Ankara Friday afternoon on a flight from eastern town of Van said an army officer being brought to the capital for medical treatment died as the plane was about to take off and the body was taken off the aircraft.

He was thought to be a reserve lieutenant wounded in the Semdinli raid, they said.

Political deadlock paralyses Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The workings of government in Israel have shifted into low gear while the nation's leaders try to untangle the political confusion that emerged from last month's election, a process that could take months.

The new Knesset (parliament), which was ceremoniously convened Aug. 13, is paralysed and is in indefinite recess. Measures to revive the flagging economy are frozen. Diplomatic initiatives are unthinkable until a new government is installed.

Incumbent Premier Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Bloc, who narrowly lost the July 23 election to Shimon Peres of the Labour Party, continues in office as caretaker prime minister until the crisis is resolved.

But without an active parliament, Mr. Shamir cannot introduce legislation or summon its economics committee to approve measures to trim a 400 per cent annual inflation rate and correct a massive trade imbalance.

Mr. Shamir's outgoing government has full legal power to conduct foreign and domestic policy. On Thursday it sent Israeli warplanes on a bombing mission against Palestinian commando targets in Lebanon.

It also has approved the construction of controversial new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, ignoring protests from the Labour Party.

But the cabinet lacks the moral authority and the political clout to make major policy departures.

"While we are busy with politics, soldiers are falling in Lebanon," says Mordechai Virshupski, a Knesset member of the small left-wing Shinui Party who wants the legislature to discuss ways to end Israel's two-year occupation of South Lebanon.

"Except for those who are trying to put together a government, the rest of us are unemployed," Mr. Virshupski said in an Israeli Radio interview.

Neither Mr. Shamir nor Mr. Peres can muster a 61-seat majority in the 120-member parliament to build a ruling coalition. Mr. Shamir's Likud won 41 seats to Labour's 44 seats, and both need the backing of some of the 13 smaller parties.

Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres have talked for two weeks on forming a joint government, but are deadlocked by disagreement on foreign policy and over who should become the next prime minister.

Mr. Peres, as leader of the largest party, claims the right to be prime minister in any Labour-Likud alliance. But Mr. Shamir claims the same right by virtue of his broader support among smaller parties.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shamir routinely summons his caretaker cabinet into session each Sunday to discuss affairs of state. But the ses-

sions now last only an hour or two, instead of the four or five hours that was usual. Major issues go unattended.

The Histadrut Trade Union Federation has refused to discuss plans by Finance Minister Yigael Cohen-Orad for a wage-price freeze, saying it was pointless to negotiate with a government that will soon be out of office.

Political commentators say the continuing absence of a functioning parliament could be a threat to Israel's democracy.

Without a parliament, said an editorial in the independent Haaretz newspaper Friday, no one can demand a public accounting of actions by ministers or "discuss their deeds and blunders, level criticism, and demand changes in policy. They are free to do as they see fit."

With the government preoccupied with the political crisis the economy has continued to slide. Inflation in July alone rose by more than 12 per cent.

The Israeli media, perusing the monthly report by the Bank of Israel released Thursday, discovered a questionable bookkeeping manoeuvre to cover up a drastic fall in foreign currency reserves in July.

The papers said the Finance Ministry borrowed \$325 million from private bank accounts owned by foreign residents to partially cover a drop of nearly \$700 million in the reserves.

Committee calls for mass Israeli immigration

NEW YORK (AP) — The head of the Arab-American Relations Committee on Friday called for a million Jews from Israel to emigrate to the United States, and said he would go to Israel to urge them to leave that country. M.T. Mehdi said his trip would be a response to Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder of the Jewish Defence League who was elected to the Israeli Knesset (parliament) on a

platform that included the expulsion of Arabs from Israel. Mr. Mehdi said more than 400,000 Israelis already live in the United States. He called upon President Ronald Reagan's administration to allow them to remain here, and to open the doors for a million more to immigrate. He called upon Jewish groups to join him in his campaign. And he urged the Arab League to give \$10 million

to the International Red Cross to help pay for the relocation of any Israelis who want to emigrate. Mr. Mehdi said he had applied for a visa for the trip to Israel, although he had been told that he would be automatically admitted with his U.S. passport. Mr. Mehdi said a visa was necessary because he was afraid he would be harassed or imprisoned if he tried to go to Israel without it.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639.720. 1413 KHz.	639.720. 1413 KHz.
MAIN CHANNEL	06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Meet the Composer 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:20 Good Books 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the Asking 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:18 World News 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 Baker's Half Dozen 14:00 Play of the Week 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 The Young Visitors 15:45 The Tony Moya Request Show 16:30 Worcester Cathedral City 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 From the Frontline Concerts 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 From our own Correspondent 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Brain of Britain 21:15 1954-2100 Music For a While 21:15 Maguire 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 Screen Partnerships 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 00:09 Science in Action 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up
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Exporters call for easier transport of goods to Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian merchants and exporters have urged the government to take measures for facilitating the transportation of Jordanian products to Egypt. A memo sent by the Amman Chamber of Commerce to the government proposed the opening of an overland and maritime line that would expedite the shipment of goods and increase the volume of trade between Jordan and Egypt.

Egypt is one of the most important markets for Jordanian products and overcoming the difficulties in shipping operations would no doubt help the marketing of Jordanian national products, the memo said.

The memo quoted by Al-Dustour newspaper also complained that the Egyptian authorities have been prohibiting Jordanian trucks from passing through Suez customs to proceed into Egypt. The memo said that Jordanian trucks are only allowed to deliver the goods at Suez to be transported into Egypt by local lorries in violation of the pan-Arab transit agreement.

The memo urged the Ministry of Industry and Trade to take up the matter with the Egyptian authorities in order to remove obstacles impeding transit and transport operations between the two countries.

Tactful approach needed by customs officers, Odeh says

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Finance Hama Odeh Saturday opened a two-day seminar for senior officials employed by customs departments. In a speech to the participants, all directors of customs offices around the country, Dr. Odeh said that the work of customs officers is unique since it brings them in constant touch with various public figures, merchants and ordinary citizens. Customs officers therefore need to possess the ability to deal with all people in a tactful and proper manner, Dr. Odeh said.

Also speaking at the opening session was Mr. Adel Al Qudah, director general of the Customs Department, who said that the

seminar, held in cooperation with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), is designed to improve the efficiency and work performance of the customs staff. IPA director Abdullah Ulayyan said that his department will continue to cooperate with the Finance Ministry in order to train staff employed in customs departments.

Participants will be studying modern administration systems and means of improving the performance of customs officers. They will also analyse and discuss patterns of behaviour of customs officers and how they deal with merchants, businessmen and other people.

SSC signs machinery loan agreement with Chinese firm

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) will loan various machinery to a Chinese engineering firm, Rit Seer, now engaged in building a main highway between Zarqa and Jerash, according to an agreement signed here Saturday. Most of the equipment and machinery to be loaned to the firm will be bulldozers to help open the road, SSC Director Farhi Obeid said.

Mr. Obeid said after the signing ceremony that the SSC established a company last year for maintaining, and loaning, equipment and machinery owned by

both the public and private sectors. This company is designed to help implement major construction projects in Jordan and to offer machinery on loan to contractors who would otherwise have to buy these machinery.

The agreement signed Saturday is the third of its kind following a similar one with a local contracting firm which was loaned a crane and another with the Public Works Ministry which was loaned 10 steam rollers and excavators for roads in southern Jordan, Mr. Obeid said.

'242 is key to peace'

(Continued from page 1)

Reagan but rather against U.S. policies as a whole in the light of the events and positions since 1967.

King Hussein said, he actually wanted to start a dialogue with the American administration to discuss Washington's policies towards the Middle East region because there are many elements which affect these policies.

It is unjust and unfair to describe Jordan as poses obstacles in the path of peace when everyone knows that it was Israel which nipped President Reagan's peace proposals in the bud, the King pointed out.

PLO role

King Hussein said that he had hoped in vain to get U.S. support for Jordan's call to allow representatives of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab lands to come to Amman and express their views freely about their future. He said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has only one aim: to liberate the occupied Arab lands and the PLO naturally reflects the aspirations and feelings of the Arab inhabitants in these territories.

The King said that another point of issue with the U.S. was Israel's settlement policy. Jordan has prepared a draft resolution for the Security Council on the issue of settlements, but was faced with the American veto which killed that resolution, the King added. Another problem with the U.S., he said, was the issue of the sale of Stinger missiles. Jordan had hoped to obtain these missiles and other defensive weapons like Hawk rockets, but the U.S. Congress turned down the request although promises for obtaining the missiles were given by the American administration.

Jordan at present continues attempts to diversify its sources to obtain weapons in order to meet its defensive requirements and this is a national decision, he said.

Arms needs

However, and despite the U.S. rejection of Stinger sales to Jordan, the kingdom will continue to exert all efforts for explaining its cause in Washington and hopes to win understanding of its position, the King said.

On the outcome of the Israeli elections, King Hussein said that

the elections did not bring about any change in the Israeli extremist policies adopted by the Likud bloc as was hoped by many people around the world.

The election brought rabbis and generals to the Knesset, and this reflects a tendency towards extremist policies and perpetuating the occupation of Arab land, the King said. There is a possibility that Shimon Peres will form a new government in Israel and one has to wait and see whether he will be able to implement Resolution 242, he said.

Asked to comment on claims by the Israelis that they carry out their present policies to ensure for themselves security as the Jewish state lies amidst a large Arab area, the King said that these claims are "nonsense" because Israel, supported by U.S. power, is now threatening all Arab states militarily. Jordan, he said, is a small country confronting these Israeli threats.

Security cannot be obtained by occupying other countries' land by force and in this case there is no security for any one in this region unless a lasting and comprehensive peace is established, the King pointed out.

He said that Jordan has always been against the policy of polarisation in the Middle East but Israel holds quite an opposite view and the area is now exposed to superpower polarisation as a result of Israel's stand.

The reason for the leaders of this region to seek support from the Soviet Union, the King said, is that they feel their countries are threatened by Israel and now Jordan seeks to build up its intrinsic force to defend itself and to ensure the existence of the future generations.

In reply to a question about Jordan's participation in the 1967 war, King Hussein said that that war had ruined many Jordanian dreams and aspirations. But, he said, Jordan had to get involved in it because it was under a joint Arab command, though Jordan was bound to lose.

He said that the war resulted in the loss of the West Bank and the loss of years of hard work and efforts to build up the country. The King said it was the most difficult period in his life and will continue to torment him until the end.

The King said that the establishment of a just and honourable peace in the Middle East was always his wish and will remain until the end.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday receives a gift from an Arab child attending the third joint Arab

cultural programme held annually in Jordan (Petra photo)

Queen Noor meets visiting delegations of Arab children

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday received at the Nadwa Palace delegations of children from 12 Arab countries participating in the third joint Arab cultural programme held annually in Jordan.

Dressed in their traditional costumes, Arab children approached Queen Noor one by one accompanied by their supervisors and presented gifts they brought specially from their respective countries. Queen Noor, also dressed in a traditional black and red Jordanian costume, listened to the poem "Watan Al Majid" performed by the children in the palace garden.

Omar Radwan, 13, a boy from the Saudi delegation, delivered a speech to the Queen in which he said on behalf of his fellow children that he was happy to be in his second home, Jordan. He thanked Queen Noor for her invitation to the Arab children to participate in the joint Arab cultural programme which aims at deepening their awareness of their own common culture and heritage.

Queen Noor was accompanied by Abeer, 14, who was adopted by His Majesty King Hussein in 1976 after an accident which killed all members of her family.

Attending the meeting Saturday were Mrs. In'am Al Mufti, and presidents of women's societies in the Kingdom as well as officials who participated in org-

anising the eight-day cultural event.

Delegations of children from Lebanon, Syria, South Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates were not able to participate in the cultural programme this year.

On the eighth day of the programme the children are scheduled to visit the city of Zarqa, 30 kilometres east of Amman, where they will visit the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and its club after which they will proceed to attend activities at the third Jerash Festival. On Monday the Arab children's delegations will return to their respective countries.

The children started a week packed with cultural activities last Sunday which included visits to the Jordanian cities of Karak, Ma'an, Salt, Irbid and a tour of Amman.

Arab children tour governorates

In Karak the children were received by the city's governor Ahmad Qur'an who welcomed the guests and accompanied them to visit the historical ruins in the city and briefed them on its history. The Karak castle is built on a large rock surrounded by steep valleys making it one of the strongest fortresses which was able to survive successive civilisations. The 3,000-year-old castle contains an archaeological museum and a popular art and traditional museum.

During their tour in Karak the children visited the site of the historical battle of Mu'ta which is the first battle in the history of Islam to occur outside the Arabian peninsula between Muslims and Romans.

The children's tour of Amman included the popular museum, the Ka'aa Castle, the Roman amphitheatre, the Martyr's Monument, the Haya Art Centre and other cultural clubs and centres in the capital.

In Irbid, 60 kilometres north of Amman, the children were received by the Irbid governor Turki Al Hindawi who welcomed them saying that their meeting represents and emphasises a feeling of the unity of a nation and its common culture and history.

The delegations of Arab children, accompanied by their supervisors, also visited the Yarmouk University in Irbid where they were acquainted with the latest teaching methods in the various sections of the university.

Ceremonies which were attended by president of the university, Dr. Adnan Badran, included art performances presented by Irbid's youth centre. The Arab children also performed folkloric dances from their respective countries.

On Friday, the visiting children were guests at Jordanian families where they had the opportunity to be closely acquainted with the traditions, habits and culture of a Jordanian family.

Festival audiences respond with enthusiasm to 'the Arab touch from Up With People'

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After the relative calm of the opening night, the Jerash Festival Friday, was packed to the seams with people enjoying everything from the "ar'oush" to Dubke. However the event that seemed to create the biggest stir, as it did on the opening night, was the show put on by the American group, "Up With People".

The South Theatre, huge though it is, was close to being full and from the moment the group stepped on the stage and started singing and dancing, the audience joined in with unrestrained and infectious enthusiasm, rewarding the cast of 45 with tumultuous applause at the end of each number.

Composed of non-stop singing, lively dancing and bright colourful costumes the show was divided into sections which featured international folk dancing and songs, hit tunes and original music all of which carried the message of the brotherhood of man and attempted "to instill a sense of hope among the members of the audience."

Safar Ya Habibi

The rock & roll numbers really got the audience moving, but the song that brought the house down was the Jordanian song

"Safar Ya Habibi" which was made famous more than 15 years ago by Abdul Mousa and Hiam Unis. Sung incongruously in a bedouin accent by a tall young blond American, the delight of the audience rose to fever pitch and many encores were demanded.

The fact that this local and well-loved song was included and that Up With People had Arabic subtitles to all the foreign songs projected onto a big screen just below the stage were two very thoughtful touches that drew the group closer to their audience.

Created in 1968, Up With People is an apolitical and religious organisation that pursues two basic goals. Firstly to build bridges of understanding and communication among peoples, cultures and countries, and secondly to give young people a learning experience that not only broadens the intellect but matures the person.

The cast are recruited on an annual basis from students of all races, religions and economic backgrounds in the age group 18 to 26.

After a performance, students who are interested in joining Up With People for whatever reason be it a desire to perform, to play in the backing group, to get involved in the technical or managerial side of theatre or simply because they want to travel (since its formation

the group has travelled to over 42 nations and all over the United States) are invited to apply.

There is one proviso, and a pretty hefty one at that, before they can be recruited — they must be able to pay around \$6,000 which is the average fees for a year at college in America.

It is estimated that to send each one of the group on tour costs \$20,000 so the general feeling among the cast is that what they get out of Up With People is well worth the initial outlay.

European tour

After their two performances at Jerash the cast have now flown to Germany to rejoin the rest of the 120 strong group to continue a European tour. It is a departure that both Up With People and the Jordanian audiences regret.

Speaking of the group's sentiment before they left, the president of Up With People in Europe, Hans Magnus said: "We came not knowing or knowing very little about Jordan and we did not know whether our show would be well received or not. We were delighted that the show was so successful and the cast were moved by the general reception they received everywhere they went and they left the country with a feeling for its hospitality, its warmth and its marvellous people."

Jordan to attend course on agricultural meteorology

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in a course on agricultural meteorology scheduled to be held in the Soviet Union on Aug. 20. The three-week course includes practical and theoretical training in the field of weather forecasts for agriculture and the effect of climatic changes on agriculture.

Jordan's participation in this course aims to raise the standard of the agricultural meteorology department.

Care of the aged seminar opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the care of aged people opened Saturday at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Nursing.

Dean of the faculty, Dr. Majda Zaky-El-Deen, said that the faculty is keen to introduce educational subjects related to old people into its curriculum which concentrates on primary health care as a means of improving the standard of health in society.

The seminar, organised by the faculty, will discuss contemporary theories related to old people, natural changes related to age, the health problems of old people and methods of distinguishing natural changes related to age and those

resulting from disease. Dr. Zaky-El-Deen said.

She added that the seminar aims to define changes which could be introduced into the field of practical nursing as well as methods of introducing the concept of care for aged people within the curriculum of a B.Sc. degree in nursing.

The seminar also includes lectures and working papers on the care of old people in addition to field visits to institutions dealing with the care of aged people.

Taking part in the two-week seminar are 32 specialists from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development and the Royal Medical Services.

Local councils increase revenues, expenditure

Municipal council laws outdated, study reveals

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A study on the activities of Jordanian municipal councils has revealed that the laws and regulations governing the councils' function are outdated and impede contributions towards social and economic progress.

The study prepared by the Economic Department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) said that these councils could be made to function in a more proper manner and eventually offer better contribution towards the development of local communities.

The study recommended that more joint services councils be established in rural regions embodying neighbouring towns and villages of different areas so that a better service could be offered to the public, and so that councils could obtain more revenues to finance their common projects.

The department's director, Dr. Mohammad Al Smadi, said that the study covered 15 large towns whose inhabitants exceed 10,000 and 114 smaller towns whose inhabitants are less than 10,000 by 1983 statistics. The study revealed that in 1982, 1,164,000 people outside the capital zone lived in a 1,367-square-kilometre area, served by municipal councils, Dr. Smadi said.

He said that municipal councils operating in these regions employ 4,726 people but many of them are unqualified. Nearly 66 per cent of councils heads and 21 per

cent of councils members in major towns have acquired university education, but this ratio drops to 21 per cent and eight per cent respectively in smaller towns. Dr. Smadi added. But, he said, the study has revealed a great shortage of qualified technicians among the councils' staff.

The study shows that for every five small municipal councils there is only one engineer and for every 16 small councils there is only one physician and this no doubt reflects badly on the performance of municipal councils as a whole, Dr. Smadi pointed out.

On the brighter side, Dr. Smadi said, the study has proved that all these councils offer such services as opening roads, building pavements and retaining walls, supplying water, electricity and health services to the public and continue to follow up measures to eliminate rodents, and insects and to remove and dispose of garbage.

Also, he said, a number of these councils have taken steps to contribute to the overall Jordanian economic and social development. These councils have embarked on projects to organise craftsmen's zones, build shopping centres and

market places and to introduce a better health service in their regions, Dr. Smadi explained.

Revenues increase

According to the study, revenues collected by municipal councils in 1982 showed a noticeable increase over the 1978 figures. It said that municipal councils collected a total of JD 25,423,000 in 1982 against JD 9,150,000 in 1978.

But the study said that these councils' expenditure also increased over the same period amounting in total to JD 25,821,000 in 1982 against JD 7,913,000 in 1978. It also said that there was an increase by individual contributors to the councils revenues from JD 5.9 in 1978 to an average of JD 12.7 in 1982.

According to Dr. Smadi, any deficit in the councils' budget is normally made up for by loans from government agencies and the Cities and Villages Development Bank.

Dr. Smadi said that the study was carried out with the intention of defining the real financial and administrative situations in municipal councils with the purpose of finding means for improving them. The study also intended to find means of increasing the revenues of these councils to enable them to carry out better public services and also to take steps towards implementing projects that would increase national production.

Austrian defence minister tours armoured division

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Austrian Defence Minister Friedrich Frischenschlager and the accompanying delegation paid a visit Saturday to one of the formations of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division where they were received by the formation's commander and a number of officers.

The delegation was briefed by the division and toured an exhibition of equipment used by the division and visited a number of its sections. Mr. Frischenschlager was presented with a commemorative gift at the end of the visit.

Accompanying the Austrian minister on his tour was the inspector general of the Jordan Armed Forces. Mr. Frischenschlager arrived here Monday on a visit to Jordan.

Oweidat reviews cultural relations with Omani ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Oweidat Saturday discussed with the Omani Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Ibn Sa'ed Ibn Abdullah and the director general of the Omani culture department ways of strengthening youth and cultural relations between the two countries.



Director General of the Water Authority of Jordan Mohammad Saleh Al Kellani (third right) and Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Fakhreddin Daghestani (third left) sign an agreement Saturday for the RSS to conduct soil studies for wastewater treatment ponds (Petra photo)

RSS to conduct soil quality tests for wastewater plant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will conduct quality control tests to determine soil compaction for ponds to be included in the wastewater treatment plant at Khirbet Al Samra, according to an agreement signed with the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) in Amman Saturday.

The agreement was signed by RSS Director Fakhreddin Al Daghestani and WAJ Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Kallani. According to Dr. Daghestani, the ponds will have a total area of 2,000 square metres and are expected to be established on an area of 1,810 dunums.

He told the Jordan Times that

the tests will continue as the project progresses and said that all the work is expected to be completed in eight months. The RSS will supervise the work in order to ensure that the base of the ponds are safe for the estimated three million cubic metres of water that will be collected in them for treatment, Dr. Daghestani added.

He said that in addition to the ponds the RSS will establish laboratories at the site furnished with special equipment for tests.

The wastewater treatment plant at Khirbet Al Samra is expected to serve the Amman and Zarqa regions until the year 2,000 and it will treat the effluent from both regions.



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Responsible Editor:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Senior Editor:
RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 666320, 666265 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

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The way to peace

IN HIS INTERVIEW with Cable News Network yesterday His Majesty the King answered many crucial questions and raised many important points. Most important, we thought, was his illustration of how U.N. Resolution 242 could be used to solve the Palestinian problem and consequently the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Resolution 242 states that a total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war should bring total peace to the Middle East — in essence the meaning was to exchange territory for peace. But it only talked about the Palestinians as refugees.

As far as the Palestinians are concerned, such a resolution could not meet their national rights and aspirations as a people fighting for independence and nationhood, and for acceptance it has to be amended first. For reasonable Israelis that should have been a reasonable demand too.

The King, in his interview, said as much. A 242 under discussion, to be implemented, at an international conference attended by all parties concerned, the Palestinians included, could be the real key to a solution.

In such a peace endeavour, the Palestinians would be represented as a people, and not as refugees, and all parties to the conflict would discuss their problems, solving them point for point on the basis of the resolution. With an arrangement like this, everybody should emerge satisfied and happy.

But the King did not only talk about concepts. He also made it more than clear that his wish in life has always been to bring peace to this troubled, unstable region, and it always will be. He talked about the past and how this country's hopes were nearly shattered by the decades-old conflict in the area. The U.S., he said, has its share of the blame for what has happened and he explained how Washington's policies in the Middle East in general have confused and harmed friends before foes.

Every word the King said is worthy of serious study and consideration. His call for the international conference, on the basis of 242, is without doubt, the best if not the only, chance for peace. It is an opportunity that must not be squandered.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: World conference imperative

THE CALL for holding an international peace conference to solve the Middle East problem has received a great boost when it was supported by the U.N. sponsored symposium on the Palestine question. The symposium issued a resolution which said that the holding of an international conference has become essential for establishing security and peace in the region. It said that the conference will be in line with U.N. resolutions on the Palestine question and therefore any opposition to such a conference by the U.S. and Israel is bound to obstruct the establishment of peace.

It goes without saying that claims by the U.S. that it is keen on establishing peace are no more than a ploy to deceive the world and as Washington is interested only in strengthening Israeli hold over the Arab lands and imposing Zionist-American hegemony on the region. The U.S. has been supporting Zionist expansionist aims and helping Israel to establish colonies, to terrorise the Arab inhabitants and evict them from their homeland. The Arabs have realised the real aims of the U.S. and its concept of "peace" which implies subjugating the will of the Arab Nation and helping the Zionists to carry out their designs.

U.S. unilateral handling of the Middle East issue has in fact obstructed the peace process, and U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance has completely ruled out any chance for the U.S. to act as a peace mediator. Therefore, the only chance for the region to enjoy peace is through an international conference in which all parties can participate in establishing a lasting peace.

Al Dustour: Buying arms where need be

WE ARE really puzzled by the policies of the U.S. concerning the purchase of arms by the Arabs for self-defence. The recent Soviet-Kuwaiti arms deal has prompted Washington to announce that it will reconsider its aid to Kuwait in the light of the Soviet arms sales to that country. Of course, this has come as a result of pressure on the Reagan administration by the Zionist lobby, which has prevented any U.S. arms sales to Kuwait.

If Kuwait wants to defend itself against external aggression, why should the U.S. refrain from selling it any arms, and if Kuwait obtains its arms from elsewhere, why should the U.S. object to such an agreement? In fact the Kuwait case is a carbon copy of what had happened in previous attempts by Jordan and other Arab countries to purchase defensive weapons from the U.S., which at the time had given unacceptable reasons for its refusal to sell them any weapons.

We are surprised at Washington's action and its reaction to the Kuwait-Soviet arms deal at a time when U.S. weapons are flowing into the Israeli arsenal. The Arabs realise the aims of the Zionists and the purpose of buying arms, and they know that the Israelis are bent on perpetuating their occupation and expanding in the Arab region. Therefore they have no alternative but to purchase defensive weapons from any source.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel, U.S. elections change so little

THE OUTCOME of the Israeli general elections has proved to the Arabs and the world at large that the Israelis are inclined towards war with their neighbours rather than making peace with them. The outcome of the U.S. presidential election will result in the arrival at the White House of a president who supports the expansionist policies of the Israeli government, for building colonies and evicting the Arab population from their homeland.

The Democrats have chosen for their candidate a man who is well-known for his support for Israel and the Republicans will vote for Reagan, who has proved to be devoted to policies that are favourable to Israel in every way. This situation should not discourage the Arabs and prevent them from taking any action towards liberating their usurped lands. It is true that the past initiatives on the international level to solve the Middle East issue have failed, but that was due to certain circumstances prevailing in the region at the time.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union had in the past made an initiative for solving the problem but that was nipped in the bud due to Israel's objection and President Sadat's visit to Israel and his Camp David agreement. Israel and the U.S. also were instrumental in foiling the Soviet initiative advocated by President Brezhnev for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the lack of serious action by the Europeans has also helped in perpetuating the current situation.

Now, however, there is another Soviet initiative which all the Arab states should accept and work towards making it succeed.

Jordan has acted big despite being small

By Fahed Fanek

EXCEPT FOR a small coast line, and one sea port, Jordan is landlocked and surrounded by three Arab countries and Israel. Every one of them is a mini-super power one way or another.

In the west lies Israel, a huge military machine, backed by the unlimited resources of a strategic alliance with the United States of America, the number one super power in the world.

In the north lies Syria, which due to the American policies in the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular, emerged as a political giant, beside

being a mini-super power in a military sense, through the support of the Soviet Union. In the south lies the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a financial super power by regional standards, capable of offering leverage for any country in the world by economic measures.

In the east lies Iraq, an Arab giant in manpower, economic strength and national will, able to sustain a major war comparable in size, duration and costs to World War I.

Jordan, in the midst of all these mini-super powers is far

less than any of those neighbours in population, area, and economic resources. At the same time it managed to maintain an arm-length independent relationships with all super and mini-super powers.

Jordanian strength is not as humble as its size may suggest: Its armed forces is not the largest in the area but it, nevertheless, may be one of the best, sizeable, efficient and respected by friends and enemies alike.

It has no oil (not yet), and for that matter, no rich natural resources except for phosphate

rock in Al Hassa mines, and Potash in the Dead Sea, yet it managed to appear among the top ten countries in the world in its high economic growth rate all through the seventies.

Its population is a mere 2.5 million, but it is one of the most important and key Arab countries when it comes to Middle East politics. Jordan is a stabilising factor. Its role is positive and constructive, and its leadership enjoys excellent image in the Arab World and abroad — an image which was earned the hard way through experience and real achievements.

movements.

Jordan does not need to become a satellite, or subordinated to any super or semi-super power for protection and support. All it needs is to continue to play the role of an independent moderate entity with an Arab national horizon, maintaining a strong army, a healthy economy, a free and just political and social system led by an effective government, backed by the people and committed to progress, development, modernisation, democracy and the highest of national values.

Jordan may not be able to repel a major aggression without help, but any such campaign will be so costly for the aggressor to the extent of creating some kind of deterrence.

As for the future, Jordan is acutely aware of the uncertainty and has so far kept all the options open, pending the outcome of political developments which are not always controllable but, sooner or later difficult decisions have to be made by the Jordanian leadership with active participation and conviction of the Jordanian people.

Ronald Reagan — A popular yet controversial president

The Republican Party convention which will endorse President Reagan and Vice-President George Bush to stand for re-election in November begins in Dallas on Monday. Following are profiles of the two men at the heart of the proceedings.

By Michael Posner
and David Nagy
Reuter

DALLAS — Ronald Reagan, who rose from a fading film career to the pinnacle of political power, enters his re-election campaign as one of the most popular yet controversial U.S. presidents in modern times.

Since taking office he has survived an assassination attempt, invaded Grenada, slashed inflation and pushed through stunning cuts in taxes and domestic spending.

But he also will be remembered for the biggest budget and trade deficits in history, the worst recession since the 1930s, covert aid to Nicaraguan rebels, the death of U.S. troops in Lebanon and the lack of any progress on nuclear arms control.

At 73 the conservative Republican facing 56-year-old liberal Democrat Walter Mondale in the Nov. 6 election enters his second campaign as the oldest U.S. president in history.

However, his age seems no barrier. A vigorous man, Mr. Reagan lifts weights, rides horses and clears brush at his California ranch.

He switched careers from screen actor to politician in mid-life after about 50 grade-B films in which he often played second fiddle to the hero and once to a chimpanzee named Bonzo.

He was governor of California for eight years from 1966, and lost the Republican nomination for president to Richard Nixon in 1968 and, narrowly, to Gerald Ford in 1976.

After Mr. Ford was beaten by Democrat Jimmy Carter, Mr. Reagan won the nomination and dethroned Mr. Carter in the 1980 election.

Sworn in the very day Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage more than a year, he vowed to build U.S. military might to unprecedented levels, restore "international respect" for America and "match loyalty with loyalty" toward allies.

A member of "the American pantheon hall of fame", he likes to say that America needs heroes and stated in his inaugural speech: "We have every right to dream heroic dreams."

Two months later, Mr. Reagan was shot in the chest by a would-be assassin named John Hinckley Jr.

He recovered fast and his good humour in the stress of the moment

ent — he joked with the surgeons and told his wife Nancy "Honey, I forgot to duck" — sent his popularity soaring.

That popularity fell for a time when a severe mid-term recession left more than 10 million Americans jobless and sent a record number of businesses into bankruptcy.

He originally promised a balanced budget by 1984 but ran up greater deficits than all previous presidents combined.

Though economic recovery has restored his high poll ratings and makes him the favourite over Mr. Mondale, the Democrats say that his policies favour the rich at the expense of everyone else.

Deployment of new medium-range missiles in Europe set off demonstrations and prompted the Soviet Union to make good a threat to leave the nuclear arms bargaining table, and critics regard his record spending on strategic arms as wasteful and dangerous.

Mr. Mondale and other critics say Mr. Reagan is the only recent president unwilling to make an arms deal with the Soviet Union. The president blames Moscow for blocking arms control and demonstrated his anti-Communist zeal with economic sanctions against Poland.

A recent anti-Soviet joke backfired politically. He said in a voice test for a radio show that he had signed a bill outlawing the Soviet Union and that "the bombing begins in five minutes".

Mr. Reagan's unconventional record mirrors his life.

Born into a poor family in Illinois, he extols family virtues, but is the first divorcee to win the White House. A conservative, he was a liberal Democrat until 1962. One of his heroes is the late President Franklin Roosevelt, creator of the "big government" that he himself denounces.

George Bush

DALLAS — Vice President George Bush, once the odd man out in President Reagan's right-wing circles, has proved himself a supreme Reagan loyalist through 3½ years of dutiful work in the White House shadows.

Although Mr. Bush, 60, refuses to discuss his own ambitions, most political analysts assume his reward will be a strong shot at the Republican presidential nomination in 1988.

Just four years ago Mr. Bush, a political moderate from an eastern blue-blood family, fought tooth-

and-nail for the nomination against Mr. Reagan, a conservative westerner.

He mocked Mr. Reagan's tax-cutting ideas as "voodoo economics" and portrayed him as a naive sabre-rattler in foreign affairs.

Now he is lead man in the president's re-election effort, attacking Democratic nominees Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro as far-left liberals out of step with the country.

One hint that Mr. Bush and Mr. Reagan still have political differences came recently when he said his boss might have to raise taxes eventually to help reduce huge government deficits.

That undercut Mr. Reagan's campaign pledge to avoid tax rises and forced an embarrassed Bush to beat a retreat on the issue.

It was one of the few stumbles he has made in more than three years of unwavering White House service that have helped soften hostility and suspicion from Republican conservatives.

Right-wingers howled when Mr. Reagan, in a bid to ensure support from the party's moderate wing, made Mr. Bush his 1980 running mate, after Ex-President Gerald Ford turned him down. They grumbled less when he ignored rightist pressures to dump Mr. Bush this year.

Mr. Bush has only one peer — Mr. Mondale, in Jimmy Carter's administration — as an activist vice president given responsible jobs beyond the ceremonial duties of the office.

When Mr. Reagan was wounded by a would-be assassin in 1981, Mr. Bush assumed his public duties in a cool, firm manner that impressed Mr. Reagan and contrasted favourably with efforts by then Secretary of State Alexander Haig to grab control.

The president assured Mr. Bush of a key role in White House councils, including attendance at all meetings of the National Security Council, leadership of foreign diplomatic missions and chairmanship of the administration's crisis management team.

George Herbert Walker Bush was born on June 12, 1924, in Massachusetts, the son of an investment banking heiress and Wall Street financier Prescott Bush, later a U.S. senator.

He spent much of his youth in the upper-crust New York City suburb of Greenwich, Connecticut, attended elite private schools and Yale University, where he distinguished himself as both a top scholar and an athlete.

During World War II, he became at 18 the youngest U.S. navy aviator in history and was decorated for valor in combat.

'LET'S SEE, NOW — I'M GONNA NEED SOME PROPS FOR THIS RE-ELECTION SHOW...'



After the war and graduation from Yale, he moved to Texas and added his own millions to the family fortune by establishing a successful off-shore oil-drilling firm. That made him, politically, a "Texan" as well as an easterner and provided his first power base as a member of Congress from

Texas for two-year terms in 1966 and 1968.

Attracted by Mr. Bush's hard-line support for the Vietnam war effort, then-President Richard Nixon brought him onto the national stage as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in 1971 and Republican Party chairman in 1973.

President Ford named Mr. Bush head of the first modern U.S. liaison office in China in 1974-75 and head of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1976 and early 1977.

He challenged for the presidential nomination in 1980 in a bid that fell just short. But his hopes are not dead yet.

Reaction to dialogue irritates Bonn

By Geoffrey Atkins
Reuter

BONN — The West German government is becoming increasingly agitated and nervous as public debate continues over its policy of close ties with East Germany.

Following clear criticism of East Germany by Moscow for encouraging better relations, diplomatic sources say there are now signs of concerns in Washington also that Bonn may be going further along this path than its NATO allies want.

The warming relationship between the two German states is due to be cemented with a visit to West Germany by East German Communist leader Erich Honecker, set to begin on Sept. 26. It would be the first such visit by an East German leader.

Despite appeals by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and senior government officials for restraint, West German politicians have engaged in an almost non-stop stream of statements and accusations over the significance of Moscow's displeasure.

Even Mr. Kohl, apparently feeling he could not be excluded from the flow of rhetoric, gave two lengthy interviews on the subject last week while on holiday in Austria.

Strong implied criticism of Mr. Honecker in the Soviet press for accepting a big new loan from West German banks — the second

in 12 months — in return for easing travel between East and West Germany has cast uncertainty over his visit.

The trip has still not been officially announced.

Inter-German Affairs Minister Heinrich Wende confirmed Thursday that the United States was concerned about the development of relations between the two German states.

But he said in a radio interview this was based largely on a misunderstanding that West Germany could drift away from the NATO alliance. There was no chance of this happening, he said.

Comments by right-wing politicians that the goal of German reunification must be kept alive have been interpreted by the Soviet Union and its allies as a new wave of "revanchism" from those seeking to reconsider the consequences of World War II.

Left-wing leaders, who have suggested that the so-called German question is no longer an open issue because of the existence of separate German states, have been accused of playing into Moscow's hands and threatening the security of West Berlin, which is surrounded by East German territory.

Diplomatic sources said NATO alarm was triggered at the end of last week after reports that West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher favoured a

joint stand by Mr. Kohl and Mr. Honecker on the mutual renunciation of force.

The reports followed a press conference by Mr. Genscher at the end of last week.

The Foreign Ministry later issued a statement denying that East and West Germany were planning any such initiative.

It said Mr. Genscher meant that any moves on renouncing force could only be made in the context of overall East-West negotiations at the 35-state European Disarmament Conference in Stockholm.

Following intensive Foreign Ministry briefings, several West German newspapers recalled that a 1970 government "letter on German unity" made it clear German reunification could only be achieved within a European peace arrangement, including self-determination for the people of both German states.

The diplomatic sources said Washington's concern over recent developments had also been spurred by U.S. newspaper commentaries which inferred that Bonn was trying to take a short cut to reunification.

"The problem for both Bonn and East Berlin is how to signal their mutual wish for new agreements without giving the impression that they are going behind the backs of their respective allies," one diplomat said.

China courts Latin America

By Allan Reditt
Reuter

BRASILIA — China's historical indifference to Latin America has radically changed with the first tour of the region by a Chinese foreign minister and the visit to Cuba of an assistant foreign minister this month, diplomats said.

The visits underline the pragmatic approach of Peking's present leadership, which is prepared to lessen stress on ideological and political differences in favour of growing economic links, they said.

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian visited Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil, while Assistant Foreign Minister Zhu Qizhen went to the Soviet Union's close ally, Cuba.

Cuba was the first Latin American country to recognise the Peking government, shortly after the revolutionary leader Fidel Castro came to power in 1959.

The Chinese Cultural Revolution of the 1960s effectively prevented any fresh diplomatic initiatives and strained relations with Cuba due to Peking's attacks on alleged revisionism by the Soviet Union and its allies.

The dramatic change came early in the 1970s when Chile under the left-wing government of Salvador Allende established diplomatic relations closely followed by Peru, Argentina and Mexico,

Brazil and Venezuela established formal links in 1974.

China concedes that Latin America remains predominantly within the United States sphere of political influence though the Soviet Union is making inroads, especially in Central America, turning the hemisphere into a classic area of superpower rivalry, diplomats said.

Peking's detente with Washington and its more pro-Western stance led to doubts about its support for developing nations within Latin America in recent years, they said.

But since 1982 China has been more critical of U.S. foreign policy, reassuring its friends and partners in Latin America by repeatedly condemning the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983, as it had condemned Britain's Falklands war the previous year, they added.

Peking has also been highly critical of U.S. policy on El Salvador and Nicaragua, arguing that U.S. intransigence enables the Soviet Union to gain influence, according to diplomats.

Emphasising China's readiness to criticise the U.S. if it abused small nations, Mr. Wu told journalists: "In the long run, we do not forget our principles just to obtain an improvement in relations with the United States."

Mr. Wu admitted that Peking had carried out what he called a

certain adjustment in its foreign policy in recent years so that differences of opinion should not block trade development.

Cuba and some East European states had expressed interest in improving and developing their commercial and economic relations with China, although ideological differences remain, he said.

Mr. Wu's carefully orchestrated tour produced reassurance of China's support and sympathy for Latin America in the face of its grave economic problems and he championed the cause of Latin American debtor nations in their efforts to get better repayment terms of the hemisphere's \$350 billion debts.

Brazil is China's only significant market in the region, buying 40,000 barrels of oil a day and selling iron ore and steel products to Peking. Bilateral trade could top a billion dollars this year, according to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

The other main trading partners are Cuba, which sells sugar, and Argentina which supplies wheat. But all three contribute less than three per cent of China's total imports, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). But Mr. Wu said his visit had convinced him that there would be major development of bilateral relations, including trade.

Australia supports comprehensive Mideast peace

THE HISTORY of the Middle East contains a running commentary of conflict. The paradox of the centuries has been that while this region was one of the cradles of civilisation it has been host much longer to bitter and protracted battles among its own tribes and nations; victim of conquest and occupation by outside powers; a timeless backdrop of conflict between them and revolts against them. Few generations have known peace and too many of today's generation sow and reap in this grim, familiar fashion.

Lebanon is being dismembered; Israel is deeply troubled; the Palestinian people remain dispossessed, permanent casualties of the regions most intractable dispute; Syria contrives regional successes but achieves uncertain influence; Iraq reportedly poisons the battlefield with chemical weapons and Iran reportedly litters it with the violently wrecked bodies of unarmed children pressed into service as human land mine decoys. These are deeply cultivated fields of human misery. The two superpowers have profound and varied interests there, but as often as not the course of events has been determined not by the superpowers but by their client states, for which narrow national interests are at all times uppermost.

In such conditions peace is an elusive quality. Yet the late President Sadat had the courage and vision to capture it and Prime Min-

istional force and observer group, MFO, outside the UN framework. In November 1981 the previous government agreed to the commitment to this force of a contingent of 99 military personnel and eight helicopters for the Rotary Wing Aviation Unit based at El Gorah for a period of two years. That period has now expired.

The Australian Labour Party (ALP) expressed major reservations about Australian participation in the MFO at the time it was initially mooted. The ALP's general preference is that the commitment of Australian troops overseas in any multinational military force should be under United Nations sponsorship. The ALP was concerned that a multinational force sponsored by a major power — in this case the United States — might come to be perceived as an extension of the foreign policy of that power and the participants as no more than client states of the major power.

There was also some anxiety about possible links between the MFO and the United States Rapid Deployment Force, particularly as some forces in the United States contingent to the MFO were drawn from an integral division of the Rapid Deployment Force. We were worried about the physical vulnerability of the MFO and feared that it might be sucked into the vortex of some sort of regional military conflict, with grave implications for international stability.

The ALP also had serious reservations about the fact that while there had been progress on the Egypt-Israel settlement tracks of the Camp David process, the Palestinian issue — central to any settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute — which the Camp David Agreement also addressed, was stuck in a dead end and Israel provocatively continued its settlement programme on the West Bank. Many Arab countries resolutely concluded that the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty represented a "separate peace". There was genuine apprehension that the security Israel gained on its southern border with Egypt according to the provision of the peace settlement would enable it to redeploy its forces and take military action elsewhere with greater confidence. Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982 is sometimes invoked as justification of this view.

In all of the circumstances it was proper for a new government to assess rigorously the genuinely held anxieties I have mentioned against practical experience of the peace settlement in the Sinai. It was accordingly that the prime minister (Mr. Hawke) directed that I should visit the Middle East earlier this year. In particular I was directed that I should assess the role and effectiveness of the Sinai MFO and Australia's participation in it. As well as visiting the Australian contingent at El Gorah and talking with the then force commander, General Bull-Hansen, I visited Egypt, Israel, Syria and Jordan where I held wide-ranging discussions. Regrettably circumstances did not permit me to visit Lebanon as I had earlier intended.

I now set out my general conclusions about the MFO's operation and our participation in it. First, I found that the MFO is performing its task effectively and has contributed to stability in an otherwise turbulent region. The peace between Egypt and Israel has by no means been flawless, and there are several outstanding



Bill Hayden

border issues and currently a distinct lack of warmth in bilateral relations. Incontestably, however, both Egypt and Israel are committed to peace and have observed the peace treaty. The earlier fear of conflict which might draw in the MFO, has not materialised. There has not been a single breach of the ceasefire since the MFO began operations. Monitoring by the MFO of the treaty arrangement in the various zones in the Sinai, I am assured, guarantees that neither party can launch a surprise attack on the other. Experience has shown that the MFO as a whole, and the Australian contingent in particular, has not been the subject of any direct threat.

Egypt has clearly gained advantage as a result of the peace treaty. It has regained its territory and has gained significant economic benefit. It has been able to reallocate some of its military expenditure to civilian development.

Significant elements of the armed forces are being used in development programmes, for example, land reclamation, road and bridge building and housing construction. Efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food production for the army will eventually help to ease the demand for imports in Egypt and lessen the strain on Egypt's balance of payments.

There is no doubt that the security established on Israel's southern border has given it greater confidence and enabled it to redeploy its forces in other areas. I am convinced, however, that it was not the — or even a — precondition for Israel's invasion of Lebanon. It is a dubious argument — one contrary to historical experience — that Israel would not have gone into Lebanon had there been no peace with Egypt. Israel has always had to maintain a state of readiness on all fronts and is still acknowledged as having this capability.

In 1967, Israel fought a war on three fronts, and likewise, the Israeli incursion into Lebanon in 1978 took place in the absence of the MFO. Israeli military authorities made clear to me their belief that, if it was necessary to fight a war on all fronts concurrently to defend Israel, Israel had the capability to do so and do so successfully. I believe that to be true.

It is clear that the opportunity for direct and early linkage between movement on the Egypt-Israel aspects of Camp David and on the Palestinian issue, if ever it did exist, has regrettably come and gone. It is, nevertheless, important to acknowledge that with the Egyptian-Israeli accord there has been a settlement of at least one aspect of a complex problem. For its part, Egypt has restored its relations with most of the Arabs in all but the formal sense and has been exploring possibilities for an initiative on the Palestinian issue

exploring with France, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat. Egyptian leaders made the point to me that their peaceful relationship with Israel strengthened their position in this respect as it could open the way for negotiations on the Palestinian issue that would not otherwise be available to them.

Although the United States makes a large contribution to the MFO both in manpower, and financial terms, the MFO commander, General Bull-Hansen of Norway, said emphatically that United States participation in the force was not geared to training for an eventual rapid deployment force. He said that sort of role would require the functioning, and in particular the training, of an integrated assault unit. The United States military forces in the Sinai MFO did not meet — were not designed to meet — such criteria, he assured me.

The government remains firm in its support for the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security including its peacekeeping function. It is a melancholy fact, however, that in some circumstances it may not be possible for a peacekeeping force to be formed under UN auspices. In these circumstances should the cause of peace be surrendered, as an article of faith, because an alternative, no matter how demonstrably acceptable to the principal parties and provenly workable, is doctrinally unacceptable? Egyptian leaders and the MFO force commander stressed the importance of maintaining the multinational character of the MFO, emphasising that Australia is regarded as an objective participant acceptable to both Egypt and Israel, and highly respected in the region. The governments of both Egypt and Israel expressed great satisfaction with Australia's participation in the MFO and commended the performance of the Australian contingent. They and the MFO secretary-general have formally asked us to renew our commitment.

As for the attitude of other Arab states, I should note that, since the establishment of the MFO, there have been no repercussions on our commercial or other relations arising from our participation. Nor were any adverse comments about our participation expressed to me in discussions in Amman and Damascus. I might add that in both capitals I initiated quite specific discussion on this matter and it was directly addressed by both sides party to each discussion.

The Australian government does not see its participation in any peacekeeping operation as being open-ended. Reviews are clearly necessary from time to time to ensure that our participation is in fact necessary. In the case of the MFO, the government would hope that the development of a relationship of mutual trust and confidence would, in due course, enable Egypt and Israel to sustain the peace between them without its presence.

During the course of my discussions with the MFO, both with General Bull-Hansen in El Gorah and with the late Director-General Leamon R. Hunt in Rome last year, I investigated the possibility of the recruitment of other national forces to replace the Australian contingent. The advice I received was that it would take a minimum of 18 months to find, and conclude negotiations

and related arrangements with a suitable replacement. In these circumstances, the government has agreed to a limited extension of the participation of the Australian contingent in the MFO for a maximum period of two years. The purpose of this extension is to maintain stability in the MFO's area of responsibility while a replacement is found.

The precise timing of Australia's withdrawal within the two-year period will be the subject of further negotiation with the MFO. The government has informed the MFO and the governments of Israel, Egypt and the United States of its decision.

I turn now to discuss briefly my impressions of the situation in the Middle East generally, focussing on three main areas of conflict — the Arab-Israeli dispute, Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war.

Arab-Israeli dispute

There was a hope that the example of the Camp David process in the Sinai of peaceful withdrawal from occupied territory through negotiation could be followed elsewhere, leading eventually to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East dispute. As I mentioned earlier, there was also a hope that the other strand of the Camp David Agreement — negotiations on Palestinian autonomy — would lead towards a comprehensive settlement of Israel's

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Bill Hayden recently addressed his country's parliament on Australia's foreign policy. Following is the full text of his statement on the Middle East.

legitimate security concerns and her territorial rights as well as a settlement of the legitimate claims of the Palestinian people.

Sadly, this has not happened and the chances of a settlement of the long-standing Arab-Israeli dispute remain as elusive as ever. None of the peace proposals currently on the table are accepted by all sides as a basis for negotiation. President Reagan's initiative of September 1982, which raised hopes of starting a negotiating process, founded because of the breakdown of efforts by Jordan and the PLO to reach a joint negotiating position on it and the Israeli government's rejection of it.

For most of last year the issue of the future of the West Bank and Gaza and the rights of the Palestinian people was submerged beneath the welter of pre-occupation with the blood-drenched quagmire in Lebanon. Earlier this year, optimism was aroused by Jordanian and Egyptian efforts, supported by previously hard-line Iraq, to form an alliance of moderate Arabs and to include PLO chief Yasser Arafat, which would work out a plan for movement towards a negotiated settlement with Israel. This was dampened by the apparent reluctance of Mr. Arafat to take any early initiatives and more recently by King Hussein's expressed loss of confidence in the ability of the United States to act as a mediator to the Arab-Israeli dispute because of what he declared to be its one-sided support for Israel. Thus prospects for any significant movement towards a settlement remain dim.

The continued refusal of the PLO and Arab states other than Egypt to recognise explicitly Israel's right to exist is one major obstacle which continues to raise doubts in the minds of Israelis about the security of their country. Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and its refusal to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people is another obstacle, reinforcing Arab suspicions about Israel's intentions on the West Bank. In particular, the ideological conviction of some influential members of the Israeli government that the West Bank is an integral part of "Eretz Israel" — the biblical land of Israel — and the declared goal of increasing the Jewish population there from its present number of 25,000 to 30,000 to 100,000 in the next two to four years through its resettlement programme has been discouraging for many influential Arab moderates. West Bank Palestinian leaders of a more pragmatic mould — for whom the settlement policy is an immediate and visual issue — have urged recognition of Israel and the opening of direct negotiations with Israel before the incorporation of the West Bank with Israel becomes so complete as to leave nothing to negotiate about. This view — which I heard most convincingly from several West Bank leaders during my visit — was expressed persuasively by Mayor Freij of Bethlehem on his recent visit to Australia.

As a country distant from the Middle East it would be inappropriate for Australia to issue prescriptions for a solution to the Middle East dispute. Nevertheless, there are principles which guide our policy towards this dispute. Fundamental is our recognition of the need to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement; our commitment to the security of Israel and its right to live within secure and recognised boundaries, and our recognition of the central importance of the Palestinian issue for any settlement. The government believes that there are a number of elements involved in achieving a settlement. The Arabs should follow Egypt's example and negotiate with Israel directly. They should extend formal recognition of the state of Israel.

Israel, for its part, should withdraw from the occupied territories in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which Israel herself accepts. We must also recognise that the future of Israel cannot be considered without also considering the fate of the Palestinian people.

The Australian government acknowledges the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right, if they so choose, to independence and the possibility of their own independent state. While the government maintains its refusal to recognise the PLO so long as it maintains its denial of Israel's right to exist, the government also believes that, as the PLO represents a significant portion of the Palestinian people, it should be included in the process of seeking a comprehensive settlement. But its opportunity to engage productively in that process will be severely limited while it persists in denying Israel's right to exist.

The government calls on Israel to freeze its settlement programme on the West Bank as it considers these settlements illegal and a significant obstacle to peace efforts. There is a tendency among Westerners, distant from the problem, to demand instant solutions. I am under no illusion that a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute can be attained quickly; there is no "quick fix" in the Middle East. There are generations of fears and suspicions to be overcome. The only way progress has come in the past and will come in the future, is through a process of direct negotiations between the principal parties to the dispute and a willingness to compromise on all sides.

My final observation on the Arab-Israeli dispute is the need to involve all relevant parties in the peace process. Syria has demonstrated on more than one occasion that it can act as a spoiler of arrangements that exclude it. Syria wants a clear role in any comprehensive settlement — after all, part of its territory is in question — and all will seek to ensure that no moves on the Palestinian issue which do not have its concurrence are successful. So far, Syria has argued that an Arab strategic balance with Israel is a necessary precondition for negotiations that may lead to a settlement. Syria is sometimes characterised as simply an agent of the Soviet Union. This is an inaccurate perception, despite the unprecedented degree of Soviet involvement in Syria's defence programme. Syria is a strong-willed state led by a Syrian nationalist who uses much more than he allows himself to be used by, his state's superpower patron. President Assad manages this relationship on this basis in spite of the critical importance of Soviet support with military equipment, training and specialist skills.

Lebanon

Over the last year, the Lebanon crisis has overshadowed events in the Middle East and has been a major focus of American foreign policy. For all parties involved, except Syria, Lebanon has proved to be a tragedy. Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was to be a quick and successful operation, designed to provide long-term security for northern Israel, cauterise the PLO contagion in Lebanon and bolster a friendly government there. Few would believe that these aims have been achieved. The invasion has proved to be an engagement which has yielded no lasting dividend for Israel. Lebanon collapsed into continuing civil war, the Gemayel government eventually deferred to Syria, not Israel, and Yasser Arafat remains the leader of the PLO.

For Israel with its army mired in southern Lebanon, the cost in human lives lost in conflict has been high. In comparative terms, Israel has lost lives at the front at five times the rate per annum at which United States troops were killed in action in Vietnam. The harrowing and troubling impact that experience makes on a society like that of Israel which deeply cares about its people takes little imagining. The United States unsuccessfully sought an honourable peace. Tragically, Lebanon has had no peace to offer. Confessional differences were inflamed as the country balkanised itself along age old lines of religious hostilities.

The best that one can forecast at this stage is that the prospects for a lasting settlement are uncertain. What one can say with certainty is that just as it would be a tragedy to witness Lebanon permanently partitioned according to confessional lines, the cause of national reconciliation will not be well served by demands for power sharing according to demographic claims based on outmoded and irrelevant facts. Syria emerged as

a clear winner — at least in the short-term — witnessing the abrogation of the Israel-Lebanon agreement, the withdrawal of the MNF, and a dominant role in Lebanon. However, Syria has yet to show it can produce a long-term solution for the problem of Lebanon.

The Australian government deplores the continuation of conflict and division within Lebanon. We continue to urge the withdrawal of foreign forces and the return of sanity and order. We call on the various militias to lay down their arms and enter into negotiations so that the independence, sovereignty and unity of Lebanon may be re-established.

Iran-Iraq war

There is a matter of equal concern in the Middle East; that is, the Iran-Iraq war. Australia has important commercial relationships with both Iran and Iraq. Iran displays remarkable resilience in spite of the strains of revolution and now of war. Iraq had undertaken conscientious efforts to modernise its society. Both are ground down and denied the opportunity of achieving many of their domestic goals, because of the burden of prolonged and bitter conflict between them.

The Iran-Iraq war drags on into its fourth year with little prospect of resolution or of a decisive victory by either party. Despite the efforts of international mediators, Iran has continued to insist on preconditions to negotiations which include not only the return of all territory it has lost, but also the trial of Saddam Hussein as a war criminal and payment of massive reparations. Iraq has agreed to resolve its differences with Iran peacefully, but rejects Iran's preconditions. The debilitating economic effects of the war and a desire to generate increased international pressure on Iran to find a settlement has led Iraq to threaten to destroy Iranian export facilities and shipping carrying Iranian oil in the Gulf. In response, Iranian spokesmen have threatened to stop all oil exports from the Gulf if their infrastructure is substantially destroyed.

Iraq has the capacity to disrupt seriously, if not cut off altogether, Iran's oil exports, almost all of which are shipped from Kharg Island. In the absence of signs of imminent military and economic collapse in Iraq it seems unlikely at present that it will run the considerable risk of military escalation that a concerted attack on Kharg Island would bring. Iran, for its part, seems unlikely to try to close the Straits of Hormuz unless Iraq stops all Iran's oil exports first. Even then, the technical difficulty of closing the Straits and the certainty of a vigorous United States military response make it unlikely that Iran would sustain this action for any length of time.

The government has examined the implications of a temporary closure of the Straits of Hormuz for Australia's oil supply and concluded that our energy supplies would not be seriously affected if the Strait was closed for a short time. The Australian government is appalled by the great loss of life and human suffering which have resulted from this prolonged conflict. We reiterate our calls to both parties to agree upon a ceasefire and to start negotiations to resolve their differences — Australian Foreign Affairs Record.

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Los Angeles records crumble as East bloc stages sports events

Olympic-style ceremony marks formal opening of Friendship-84

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of Soviet sportsmen staged a spectacular celebration in Moscow's Lenin Stadium Saturday to open games for Soviet bloc athletes whose countries boycotted the Los Angeles Olympics.

Six members of the Kremlin's ruling politburo presided over the 90-minute display that included an Olympic-style ritual in which a runner lit an "eternal flame" in the bowl used in the opening ceremony of the 1980 Moscow Games.

The ceremony resembled the 1980 opening, but this time only Soviet personnel marched round the stadium. They carried flags of the 15 Soviet republics and other countries taking part.

Officials gave no immediate explanation for the absence of teams from other countries, which include 2,000 athletes from the communist or developing world and a handful from the West.

Soviet officials deny that the "Friendship-84" events, also being held in East Europe, are an alternative to Los Angeles. But the state media have contrasted them to this year's Olympics which Moscow branded as a meaningless festival of American nationalism.

A huge Soviet flag was paraded through the stadium before it was hoisted to the strains of the national anthem. Giant electronic display screens relayed pictures of the flag and the Soviet coat of arms.

The crowd stood in silence as

runner Viktor Markin entered the stadium bearing a torch lit from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and ignited the Olympic flame.

"What a moving moment," Soviet pole vaulter Sergei Bubka commented to the official news agency TASS. "It is a pity that the Olympic flame in Los Angeles was darkened by the spirit of profit-making."

Politburo members presiding over the ceremony included Mikhail Gorbachev, the man seen as number two to president Konstantin Chernenko. Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov and Moscow City party chief Victor Grishin.

Although Saturday's ceremony marked the official opening of the games, the first athletics events were held Friday.

Olympic records crumble

East Germany's Irina Meszynski set a women's world record in the discus throw, and all but one of the gold medal-winning performances in the men's field events at Los Angeles were shattered by athletes from Eastern Europe on the first day of the games Friday.

Meszynski threw the discus 73.36 metres in Prague, one of several cities hosting the games.

Her throw bettered the old mark of 73.26 set by Galina Savinkova of the Soviet Union in 1983.

As women's track and field events continued in Prague — where three Soviet women also bettered times of Los Angeles gold-winners — Soviet riders dominated Equestrian competition in the southwestern Polish town of Ksiaz.

Besides Czechoslovakia and Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Cuba are also slated to join the Soviet Union in hosting the games.

While only one world record was set in track and field competition at the Olympics, five world record holders and several other field event specialists here easily surpassed the best on show in the corresponding events at Los Angeles.

In the first of the field event finals, Yuri Sedykh of the Soviet Union heaved the hammer 85.80 metres.

That was 74 centimetres outside the world record he set in Ireland earlier this year but was the best throw in the world since then. It would have assured him of a third consecutive Olympic gold medal.

Finland's Juha Tiainen, who took this year's gold with an effort of 78.08 metres, would not have collected a medal of any colour had Friday's leading hammer throwers, been present at the Olympics and repeated their performances here.

Igor Mikhlin was second with 82.56 metres, followed by last year's Helsinki world champion, Sergei Litvinov, who threw 81.30 to make it a 1-2-3 clean sweep for the Soviets.

Ten of the 13 events on the first of two days of track and field were won by Soviet athletes, but the next world record holder to make his mark after Sedykh was East Germany's Uwe Hohn, the only man in the world to hurl the Javelin over 100 metres.

Hohn was some 10 metres off his world record of 104.80 set in East Berlin just before the Olympics. But his throw of 94.44 was way ahead of the gold medalist at Los Angeles, Finland's Arto Harkonen, who could only manage 86.76.

The next two in the javelin, Detlef Michel of East Germany and Zdenek Adamec of Czechoslovakia, also beat Harkonen's best, again illustrating the strength of competition missing from the field events at this year's Olympics.

It was the same story in the shot put, where the three best performers all out-hurled Olympic champion Alessandro Andrei of Italy.

In the pole vault, Konstantin Volkov, a silver medalist in last year's world track and field championships and runner-up in the 1980 Olympics, soared to 5.80 metres.

Friday's events also produced some impressive performances on the track, especially in the 20-kilometre walk, where the first three finishers again surpassed anything achieved at Los Angeles.

Oswaldo Cara of Cuba and Hungary's Attila Kovacs both beat Olympic silver medalist Sam Grady in the 100-metre dash while in the Soviet 4x100-metre relay team beat the times of both Olympic silver medalist Jamaica and bronze medalist Canada by clocking 38.32 seconds.

There was a touching moment in the 10,000 metres when one of the few Lebanese competitors was cheered home in last place after taking 41 minutes to complete the course.

He spent the latter part of the race a lone figure on the track while the medalists received their prizes and the field events continued.



Teams from 17 Arab countries line up at the opening ceremony Friday of the ninth Arab Table Tennis championship tournament (J.T. photo)

Jordanian teams excel in Arab table tennis tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Teams matches of the ninth Arab Table Tennis Championship, which was opened here Friday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, began Saturday at the King Hussein Sport City.

In the men's events, Jordan defeated Oman 5-0 while in an amateur teams' match Jordan over-

came Palestine 5-0.

Jordan also defeated Sudan 5-0 in the ladies' events and overcame the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 5-0.

The championship was opened Friday by Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Oweidat who deputised for King Hussein in opening the championship which is organised by

the Jordan Tennis Federation in cooperation with the Arab Tennis Federation.

Taking part in the championship are tennis teams from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, North and South Yemen, Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and Libya.

Charity Shield blunder sinks Liverpool

LONDON (R) — A bizarre own goal by goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar gave Everton an unexpected but thoroughly deserved 1-0 win over European soccer champions Liverpool in the Charity Shield at Wembley Saturday.

Grobbelaar, well known for his eccentricities, was the victim of a vicious ricochet in the 56th minute of a generally disappointing display by both teams in the traditional curtain-raiser to the English season.

Liverpool badly missed their departed midfielder general Graeme Souness, who is now in Italy, with Sampdoria. They struggled against a lively and hard-working Everton side and brought on striker Paul Walsh, their close season signing from Luton, as a substitute in the 55th minute.

His presence was immediately effective in the wrong way as Eve-

ron broke out from defence and Kevin Ratcliffe set Graeme Sharp free in the Liverpool penalty area.

Grobbelaar parried Sharp's first shot but his second effort deflected off Mark Lawrenson and then struck the goalkeeper's outstretched boot before rolling in.

Walsh, joining Ian Rush in attack, could do little to prevent Everton taking command. Liverpool were left to rue missing the best chance of the match in the first half when Kenny Dalglish shot over with only goalkeeper Neville Southall to beat.

Everton were quickly into their stride in the first half as Kevin Richardson exposed Liverpool captain Phil Neal's lack of pace several times. On this evidence, they can look forward with some optimism to a continuation of their strong finish last season.

But Liverpool, who also lost this traditional match between the league champions and the F.A. cup winners last season, need to solve their midfield problem, where John Wark is no complete replacement for Souness.

Teams:

EVERTON — Neville Southall, Gary Stevens, John Bailey, Kevin Ratcliffe, Derek Mountfield, Peter Reid, Trevor Steven, Adrian Heath, Graeme Sharp, Paul Bracewell, Kevin Richardson.

LIVERPOOL — Bruce Grobbelaar, Phil Neal, Alan Kennedy, Mark Lawrenson, Ronnie Whelan, Alan Hansen, Kenny Dalglish, Sammy Lee (Paul Walsh-55), Ian Rush, Steve Nicol, John Wark.

McEnroe, Connors meet in Toronto semifinals

TORONTO (AP) — John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors were expected to battle Saturday for the first time since the Wimbledon final when they face each other in the semifinal of the \$45,000 Player's International Tennis Tournament.

The other semifinal was pitting eighth-seeded Vitas Gerulaitis against South African Kevin Curren.

Gerulaitis scored a mild upset Friday night, defeating fourth-seeded Jimmy Arias 7-5, 6-3; Curren stopped unseeded American Scott McCain 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; McEnroe dumped his doubles partner, no. 16 seed Peter Fleming, 6-2, 6-4; and Connors breezed past seventh-rated Eliot Teltscher 6-2, 6-4.

Gerulaitis, who struggled through three-set matches against unseeded opponents the last two rounds, was pleased with his improved play.

"I'm definitely playing better every day," said Gerulaitis, who won the Canadian Open the last time it was held here in 1982. "I served the best I have in this tournament."

McEnroe was never threatened by Fleming, although he did lapse midway through the match when he failed to win a point in two straight service games.

Mostly though, McEnroe pressured Fleming, who also made a large number of unforced errors.

Needing just over an hour, Connors, 31, had little difficulty beating Teltscher, his practice partner, for the 11th time in as many career meetings.

"To come into a tournament and play the way I'm playing after a layoff is pretty good," said Connors, who's been away from tournament play for three weeks.

"He's been a friend of mine for a long time, and I guess I know his game quite well," he said.

Playing in his seventh match of the tournament after having to win three just to qualify, McCain finally tired in the final set.

"I feel very good since it's not many tournaments that you have to play seven matches," said McCain, who's ranked 329th on the Atari-ATP computer.

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For beginners
Distance: 1,600 metres.
Time: 2 minutes 7 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Mou Fidah	Mohammad Suleiman
2ND:	Sinjar	Sakir Fahad
3RD:	Ellafieh	Ali Mohammad

SECOND RACE:

For beginners
Distance: 1,000 metres
Time: 1 minute 20 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Noujood Fawaz	Fawaz Nabulsi
2ND:	D. El Moushakir	Talab A. El Kadir
3RD:	M. Raied	Mohammad A. El Naby

THIRD RACE:

For beginners
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1 minute 47 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Holwan	Bahjat Fanous
2ND:	Sayal	H.H. Late Sherif Naser
3RD:	Sayaf	Ibn Jamil Stables

FOURTH RACE:

For third class horses
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1 minute 39 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Rabadan	Nimir El Humoud
2ND:	Ellahik	Trad Dahham
3RD:	Apollo	El Faiez Bahjat Fanous

FIFTH RACE:

For second class horses
Distance: 1,000 metres
Time: 1 minute 8 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
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2ND:	D. El Aswad	Ghaleb Haddadin
3RD:	B. El Reeh	Samy Haddadin

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French firms, Iraq renew oil contract

PARIS (R) — France's two major oil companies have renewed an oil supply contract with Iraq that last year allowed Baghdad to overcome severe financial problems stemming from its war with Iran, a well-informed source said Saturday.

The initial, 80,000 barrels-a-day contract expired on June 30 when the two sides failed to agree on terms of renewal.

The deal was imposed on state-controlled Elf Aquitaine and Total last year as part of an overall French government settlement of outstanding Iraqi debts to France.

The renewal, which has not been officially announced by either side, has been agreed after several months of discreet negotiations between the two companies and Iraqi authorities.

The source said the new contract was for one year and required the French firms to lift 40,000 barrels a day each from Iraq, the same quantity and duration as the expired agreement.

A Total spokesman declined specifically to confirm the renewal but did so implicitly, saying: "The commercial conditions of the contract are satisfactory for both the French companies and Iraq."

France is Iraq's second-biggest arms supplier after the Soviet Union and has been its leading Western supporter during its war with Iran, now almost four years old.

In addition to the oil contract, France has agreed to refinance Iraqi debts totalling about 12 billion francs (\$1.4 billion) since May 1983.

Nigeria fails to attain oil production target

ROTTERDAM (R) — Nigeria, which urgently needs cash to revive its economy, is producing little more than one million barrels of oil a day, industry sources said Friday.

They said that with oil markets slack the African country had no hope of reaching its 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d) OPEC production target this month.

Because of the country's financial plight, its partners in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) last month approved a 100,000 b/d increase in Nigeria's August quota and a 150,000 b/d increase for September.

Crude oil brings in 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange.

The revenue is badly needed to help repay its \$15 billion foreign debt and restore an economy said by the new military rulers to have been on the verge of collapse.

The sources said poor world oil demand, coupled with a drop in spot market prices, had led many contract customers for Nigerian crude to cut back liftings rather than pay the official price for oil which could not be profitably processed.

They said oil companies operating in Nigeria had reduced output and virtually no Nigerian crude had appeared on the spot market for at least the past month.

U.S. personal income rises 0.8% in July

WASHINGTON (R) — The personal income of Americans expanded by 0.8 per cent last month, after a comparable 0.9 per cent June gain, and growth in consumer spending remained moderate, the Commerce Department said Friday.

Much of the income rise reflected further gains in wages and salaries due to the strong economic recovery, although the national unemployment rate went up from 7.1 to 7.5 per cent.

Other statistics in the income report showed spending rose only 0.3 per cent in July and 0.4 per cent in June, a much lower rate than the jumps of 1.2 per cent and 1.6 per cent in May and April, respectively.

The weaker spending figures over the past two months are consistent with other recent signs that the rapid economic expansion is beginning to lose some force.

Mr. Robert Ortner, the chief Commerce Department economist, said Friday's news on spending should help relieve anxieties that the strong economy will drive interest rates higher.

He said the economy is growing much more slowly in the current quarter than in earlier periods of this year.

He said the expansion will ease steadily and finish the year at about a four per cent growth rate.

Boeing, Rolls Royce and Saudis gain in oil-for-airplanes deal

LOS ANGELES (R) — The U.S. Boeing Company, Britain's Rolls Royce and Saudi Arabia all stand to benefit highly from an unusual oil-for-airplanes barter deal worth about \$1 billion.

International oil traders say the only losers may be major commodities traders, so far unidentified by any of the parties, charged with selling Saudi oil and transferring the cash to Boeing and Rolls Royce.

Boeing announced on Wednesday it will trade 10 747-300 airplanes equipped with Rolls Royce engines for Saudi oil equal in value to the purchase price of the planes.

Boeing said the planes are worth \$100 million each, including four Rolls Royce engines per plane.

Sources said Rolls Royce will also supply 10 spare engines and that the total value of the order to Rolls Royce is about \$300 million (\$393 million).

Delivery of the aircraft is scheduled to begin in June 1985, Boeing said.

Neither Boeing nor Rolls Royce will take delivery of the approximately 35 million barrels of oil priced at the official government rate of \$29 per barrel.

Oil brokers said the Saudi national oil company, Petromin, will sell the oil to the unidentified middlemen, who must then dispose of it on a market where Arab light crude is selling at \$27.65-\$27.75 per barrel.

A Rolls Royce spokesman in London said his company would be paid in cash by a banking institution working with Petromin, presumably when each plane is delivered to the Saudi national airline Saudia.

A large commodities trader has been buying oil futures heavily in recent weeks on the New York Mercantile Exchange, according to sources, probably to hedge against an anticipated loss on the sale of the Saudi crude.

Analysts in London said payment on delivery of the planes over 18 months from next June could quell fears the market might be suddenly flooded with 35 million barrels of oil.

World oil prices have suffered over the last month since rumours of the barter deal and fears of related extra Saudi oil production first surfaced.

But U.S. oil market sources say they believe delivery will take place this year.

Oil analyst Mr. William Randall of First Boston Corporation said the Saudis may be forced to take a small discount on the oil. But "they'll never admit they took less than the official price," he added.

The deal "couldn't come at a worse time for the oil market," Mr. Randall said, pointing out that the glutted market hardly needs an additional 35 million barrels now.

Mr. Randall said the Japanese trading firm C. Itoh is among the four or five buyers negotiating to purchase portions of the Saudi crude.

For Rolls Royce, which last year lost \$193 million (\$256 million) on sales of \$1.3 billion (\$1.75 billion), the Saudi deal is a "very significant order," according to company spokesman Mr. Michael Jolly in New York.

"It will certainly help to fill our production line," he noted.

Rolls Royce has some 40,000 employees in Britain and cut 5,900 people from the workforce last year.

Boeing has not received such a large order for 747s since May 1983, said spokesman Mr. John Newland.

Singapore Airlines ordered six 747s and four 757s in May 1983, Mr. Newland said.

The 747 Jumbo jet has been selling slowly in the past two years as airlines sought smaller, more fuel-efficient planes.

A senior London trader specialising in oil barter deals said last month he was puzzled over the reasons for the transaction, but suggested Saudi Arabia might prefer not to draw on financial reserves abroad.

Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani was quoted by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) as saying the deal would be exceptional and not change Saudi Arabia's general policy against oil barter transactions.

MEES said the aircraft were to be bought by Saudia on behalf of the defence ministry, which could use them as troop carriers and transport planes.

Boeing said the planes would be used by the Saudia on regional and international routes. Mr. Newland did not know whether Saudia plans to expand its routes or use the new planes to replace older equipment.

The 747s sold to Saudi Arabia seat between 381 and 424 people, depending on seating configuration.

Commodity prices pose problems for Third World

LONDON (R) — The prices of many of the raw materials that fuel industry and feed the world have taken a nosedive in recent months, posing problems for producer nations.

Commodity prices, which were very low in 1981 and 1982, began to rise last year, boosted by the hope that the strong U.S. economic recovery would spread and spark a big rise in demand for commodities.

But unlike other recoveries, this has not happened, and officials of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are pessimistic about the future.

Mr. Alex Ashabior, director of UNCTAD's commodities division, told Reuters in Geneva the strong U.S. recovery had not been an effective pump primer. Stock replenishment, which began in anticipation of an upturn, has halted and the prices of many materials have slipped sharply.

"A considerable proportion of the success of the West in overcoming inflation is due to depressed material prices from the Third World," he said.

Sugar is wallowing at its lowest level in 13 years, while a string of other commodities, from gold to grain, are depressed.

The London-based Economist magazine's commodity price index has dropped eight per cent from a high in May, while the International Monetary Fund said last week that non-oil commodities recorded in June their first substantial decline since late 1982.

Although prices remained 5.1 per cent higher than in June 1983, the slippage underlined the fact that the full benefits of recovery in the industrialised West and Japan are not filtering through to the commodity producers.

Some economists have argued that sliding prices herald the beginning of a deflationary spiral — the opposite of inflation — but it is an argument that is rejected by others who say the strength of the dollar distorts the picture.

Mr. David Fuller, an investment analyst who produces the international newsletter Fullermoney, says many commodities have been pushed into "the slough of despondency" by the strength of the dollar and high interest rates around the world.

The high dollar cuts demand because people have to pay more in their currencies for materials bought and sold in dollars, while high interest rates make stock rebuilding too expensive.

Mr. Fuller says a lot of investors are switching their money from high-risk commodities to much safer and rewarding government bonds or even bank deposits.

High interest rates are also hammering Third World nations, making it much more costly for them to service their foreign debts. But efforts to boost earnings by exporting as much as possible only serve to depress prices further.

Mr. Fuller says the significant thing about the recovery in the industrialised world, strongest in

the United States and the Far East, is that it has been largely built on trade in high-technology goods and services.

The rally has passed by the traditional "metal bashing" industries, with the exception of car manufacturers and they are turning increasingly from steel to new materials like plastics.

Mr. Ashabior said Iron-ore exporters like Sierra Leone, Liberia and Mauritania had been badly hit, with prices down from about \$29 a tonne in 1980 to below \$22 in some cases.

A few commodities, like coffee, lead, tin and zinc, have bucked the trend, but are now declining.

Cocoa, which is an important crop in West Africa, strengthened because of shortages, but a surplus is expected in the coming season.

For producer countries, depressed prices and fluctuations in what they can get for their exports make realistic economic planning almost impossible. This is particularly true of countries which rely on just one commodity for a high proportion of their foreign earnings.

Zambia's tottering economy depends on copper for 90 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings and industry sources said it had to export the metal at virtually any price.

Copper, which is about 10 per cent cheaper than a year ago, accounts with cobalt for about 70 per cent of Zaire's foreign earnings and 40 per cent in Chile.

The combination of low prices and high interest rates is threatening Chile's modest economic recovery and has sparked fresh rumours of devaluation.

But the depression has settled most heavily over sugar, which has halved in value on world markets in a year, slumping to its lowest level since 1971.

One sugar analyst for a London commodity broker says stocks far outweigh consumption and the future does not look bright.

"The outlook is not good," he said. "In the past producers have always been able to sell their sugar at a price. People are now finding that they cannot sell to anyone."

Attempts to negotiate a new international sugar agreement aimed at supporting prices fell apart in June. Prices had already begun to slacken but fell sharply after the failure of the talks in Geneva.

Nobody can produce sugar below \$150 a tonne, the sugar analyst said, but the price has fallen to around \$122 a tonne for December delivery.

To compound the problem, the world's major producers are all expanding output.

Cuba, which sells much of its output to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, intends increasing its output by 50 per cent to 12 million tonnes by 1990 even though its hard currency earnings were almost halved last year.

Elsewhere in Latin America, buoyant coffee prices have helped some countries, while oil producing nations in the heavily indebted region are more or less uncathed.

Creditors sue Handlowy

GENEVA (R) — A group of Swiss creditors owed money by Poland said Friday that legal proceedings had been launched against the Polish foreign trade bank Handlowy.

The bank has withheld a 12.3 million Swiss franc (\$5.1 million) repayment on a bond issue due on May 2.

Poland is prepared to reimburse private individuals holding the bonds, but is unwilling to repay banks in line with debt rescheduling accords negotiated with commercial bank creditors, banking sources say.

However, the Swiss subsidiary of the Belgian Kredietbank and Sotidic S.A., a Geneva bank, which represent the interests of the unpaid creditors, are opposed to this.

In a statement Sotidic and Kredietbank said that legal proceedings had now been launched against Handlowy.

Under instructions from the two banks, one unidentified bond holder had now sought repayment of his money through a court in Bern, a spokesman for Sotidic said.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Do not feel you have been put upon in practical and financial ways, for if you do, you could mull your complaints over in your mind and want to engage in a fight. So remain calm.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may feel you are not as well off as you should be today, but count your blessings and don't go spending more than is necessary.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You want to express yourself better in personal affairs but don't get into any arguments for good results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may feel restricted so study the matter well and solve it properly. Enjoy a good meal with someone who makes you feel happy.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may feel stalemated and cannot gain your personal desires, so contact a good friend who has fine suggestions.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may feel that you are left out of something that is vital to you in the outside world and could be unhappy. Be wise.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may want to change your philosophy of life, but think twice about it. Study into it more seriously and appreciate what you have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You could get into a big argument over some business or personal matter, but it is better that you keep poised and calm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Some argument with a partner should not be taken so seriously and then it all works out fine. Control your temper.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may feel disappointed with your job and want to give it up, but it would be wiser to add efficiencies and be happier.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A pal may renege on some plan made with you but realize that he or she could be under tension of some sort.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some financial discussion at home could erupt into a big argument, so await a better day for getting into it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Much care must be used in driving today since accidents are easily possible. Make sure you obey all rules and regulations.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have much energy and should have it directed properly or else your progeny could get into much trouble by a highly competitive attitude. Sports are very important here to work off the excessive energy wisely. Strength and perseverance should be taught.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RECEL

WAMAC

RULTSY

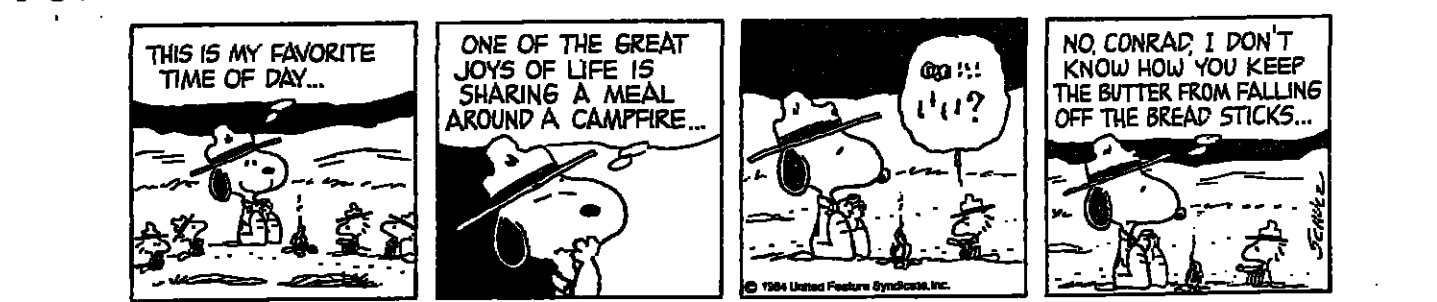
WEFTES

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

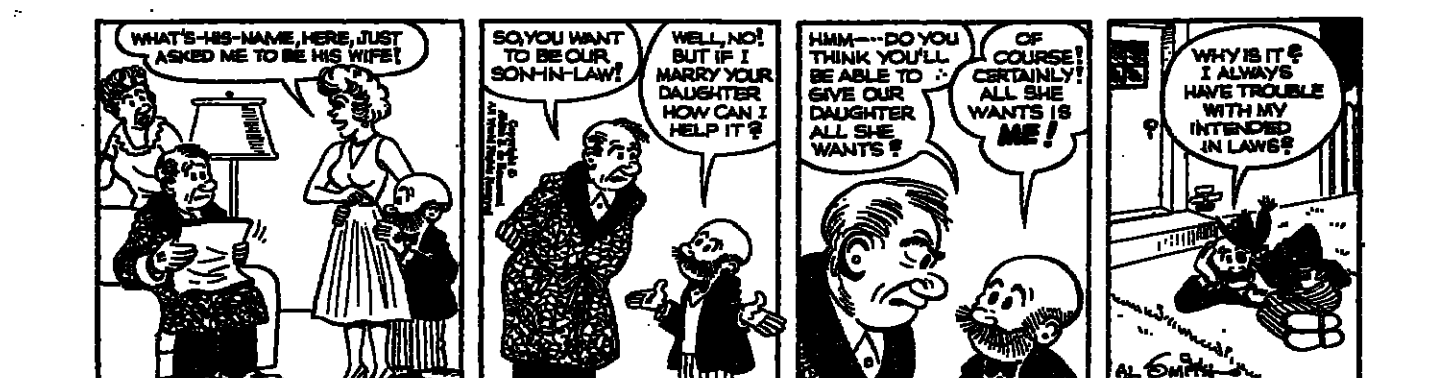
Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FETCH HITCH CATTLE PARODY
Answer: What they called the team's psychiatrist — THE "HEAD" COACH

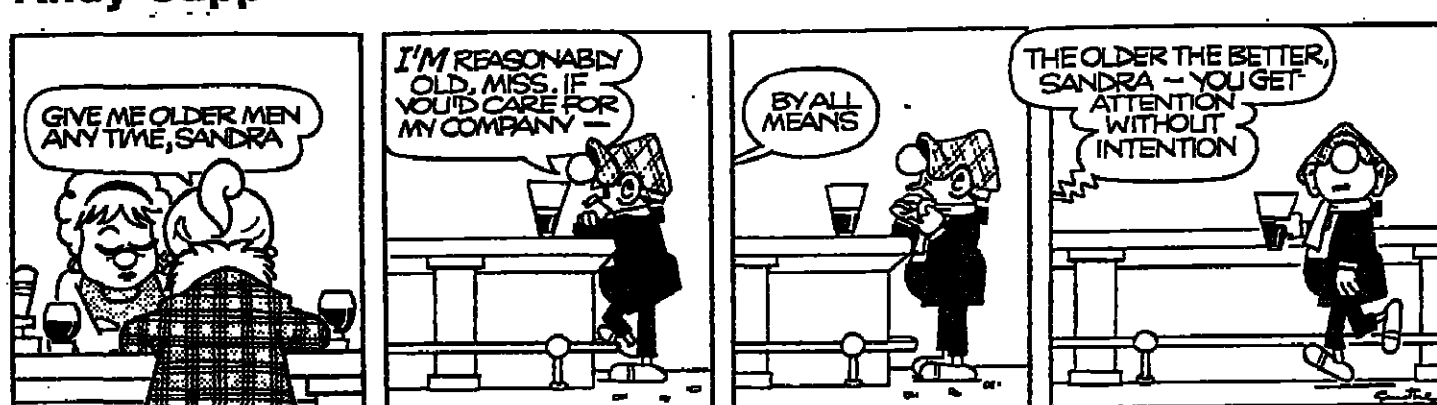
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS

1 Coastal flyer

5 Thrush

10 Meat

14 Mele

15 Maine college town

16 Burden

17 Stadium fixture

19 Org.

20 Doctrine

21 Also

22 Legal paper

23 Wheel projection

28 Odors

29 Predilection

32 Castle wall

35 Cross out

37 John or Maureen

42 Certain show

43 "a camera"

44 Wall section

45 Welcome

46 Pantry e.g.

48 Mean

50 Matter

51 Fruit

55 Concorde

57 Wading bird

58 Digit

61 Cut into small cubes

66 Pound e.g.

67 Emphasize

70 At all

71 Superman in the movies

72 Author

73 Wiesel

74 Caribou

74 Menials

75 Beach stuff

DOWN

1 Formerly, formerly

2 Houston university

3 Midday

4 To be: Fr.

5 Purloin

6 Gold: Sp.

7 Vessel

8 Jap. case

9 Knotty

10 Propeller arm

11 Artist's tripod

12 A Ford

13 — off (parries)

18 Common abbr.

24 Alphabetic sequence

25 Former Chin. adherent

27 Nearsighted person

28 Bjorn of tennis

29 At any time

30 Granular snow

31 Actual

33 Mad

34 Defective cars

36 Kind of sleeve

38 Damage

39 Celebes ox

40 Old cars

41 Charity

47 Sits

48 Character

51 Two-legged stand

52 "poor dog"

53 Releive

54 Daisylike flower

56 Six-pointers

58 Singles

60 Place of bliss

62 Desserts

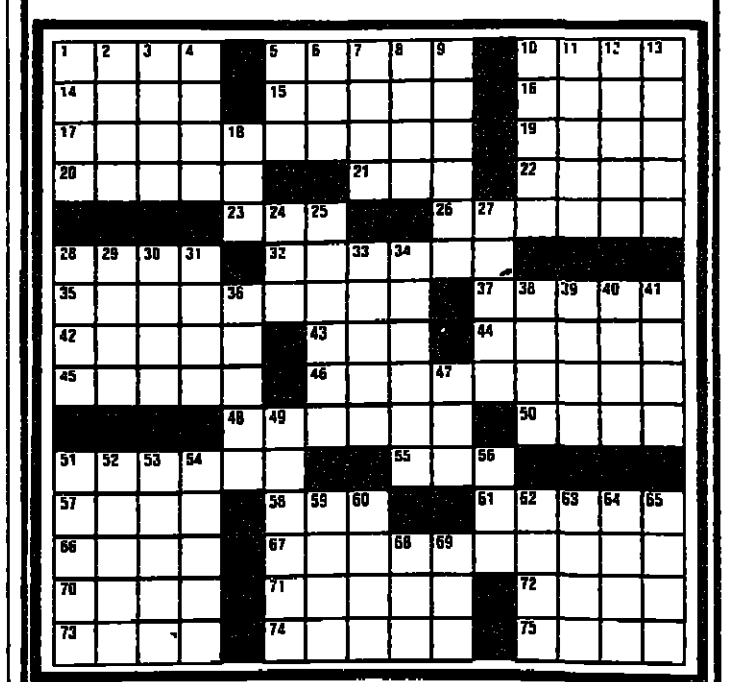
63 Soft drink

64 Land of blamey

65 Feet

68 Holiday time

69 Legal matter



Honecker backs East-West talks

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Leader Erich Honecker defended his efforts to maintain East-West dialogue in an interview Saturday but did not say if he would go ahead with a controversial visit to West Germany.

Mr. Honecker, whose bid to improve links with Bonn is being viewed with suspicion in Moscow, told the Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland that contacts between the two Germanys were crucial to East-West relations as a whole.

"Both German states can, through the development of their relations, have a positive effect on the climate in Europe or they can raise international tensions," Mr. Honecker said.

He repeated calls to "limit the damage" caused by the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles, which Moscow has con-

sidered by stationing its own missiles in East Germany. "It is better to negotiate ten times over than shoot once," he said.

"Mr. Honecker made it clear by the generally mild tone of his remarks that he wants dialogue to continue even if the superpowers are not talking, but he is cautious enough not to make any hasty announcements about the September visit," one Western diplomat said.

Mr. Honecker's visit, the first by an East German leader to West Germany, was postponed last year after a West German died of a heart attack at an East German customs point.

Doubt has been cast in this year's visit, tentatively set for Sept. 26, by a series of Soviet and Czechoslovak press attacks on Bonn and its recent \$330-million credit to East Germany.

Western diplomats said the wording and timing of the lengthy interview, also carried by the Berliner Zeitung, State Radio and the official ADN News Agency, suggested that Mr. Honecker was seeking a signal from Bonn that it would rein in its public support for President Reagan's foreign policy.

"Perhaps Mr. Honecker believes a few well-chosen words of caution by Kohl to Reagan over foreign policy would help him justify his visit in the eyes of Kremlin sceptics," one diplomat said.

Mr. Honecker said the United States was set on nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union

and, by deploying new nuclear missiles in West Germany this year, openly preparing a "first strike" against the Warsaw Pact.

Referring to Mr. Reagan's controversial joke about bombing the Soviet Union while preparing for a radio broadcast, Mr. Honecker commented:

"The wicked and threatening words spoken into a microphone in Washington this week have offended the whole world. They are a warning to everyone who shares responsibility for the future of mankind to support a coalition of sense," he said.

"The GDR (East Germany) has done much to stop a tragic turn of events and calm the situation. In this, it has attributed much importance to dialogue with responsible political forces in the BRD (West Germany)."

British official charged for passing secrets

LONDON (R) — A top British defence official has been charged with wrongfully passing on information under the official Secrets Act, the Defence Ministry announced Friday night.

Clive Ponting, assistant secretary at the ministry and head of a branch responsible for advising the Royal Navy, will appear in court to face the charge, a ministry spokesman said.

He said Mr. Ponting, 38, had been suspended from duty pending the outcome of the court case.

The civil servant was charged under the stringent 1911 Secrets Act with communicating information to a person to whom he was not authorised to do so.

Mr. Ponting was accused of leaking information, details of which were not disclosed by the ministry, "on or about July 16 this year."

The spokesman said Mr. Ponting, who joined the ministry in 1970, became an assistant secretary three years ago, responsible for a department dealing with the training and education of service personnel.

U.S. Navy defends reliability of Trident

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Navy Friday defended the reliability of its submarine-launched Trident nuclear missile following a congressional investigation which suggested some deployed Tridents might be defective.

"The Trident-I missiles presently deployed continue to have high demonstrated reliability and there is no reason to have any doubt that they will continue to do so," it said in a statement.

The three-stage, solid-propellant Trident is one of America's primary strategic weapons with a range of 7,700 kilometres. Current plans call for buying 570 Tridents for deployment on eight Trident and 12 Poseidon submarines.

The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee recently issued a report which said a

defect in the first-stage engine had led to the recall of 12 deployed Tridents and raised questions about reliability of 370 others.

The navy said recent news stories criticising the Trident did not reflect the missile's current performance.

"Test flights to date, including many recent consecutive successes, indicate that missile reliability is above the programme goal," it said.

The 10.5-metre Trident-I can carry eight nuclear warheads which can be deployed against separate targets.

In the recently published transcript of a hearing by the House Committee, a Pentagon official said that corrective action had been taken on the Trident engines, but only after 370 had been delivered.

Peking warns against space arms deployment

PEKING (R) — China said Saturday the deployment of weapons in outer space would add a fourth battlefield to the conventional ones of land, sea and air.

A commentary by the official New China News Agency (NCNA) said the new superpower rivalry in outer space was a grave threat to world peace and security.

The Soviet Union, it said, had taken the lead in developing anti-satellite weapons but the introduction of the American space shuttle had closed the gap in the space arms race.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union had now moved from the development of military satellites to space weapons intended for combat and this would add a fourth battlefield to the con-

ventional ones on earth, NCNA said.

"Despite their 1972 treaty which limits the deployment of their anti-ballistic missile systems, the two superpowers have actually quickened their pace in the development of such weapon systems," it said.

It said President Reagan's so-called "star wars" programme to develop space weapons and satellite killers would lead to a spiralling arms race which would swing alternately from offensive to defensive systems.

China has called for fresh talks between the superpowers. Saturday's commentary coincides with a visit to Peking by U.S. Navy Secretary John Lehman.

U.S. concerned over Pakistan's nuclear plans

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Friday it was still concerned about Pakistan's nuclear activities but declined comment on charges that it was seeking to develop a nuclear weapons capability.

The statement came from the State Department, responding to a demand by California Democratic Senator Alan Cranston for cuts in U.S. military aid to Pakistan because of its alleged efforts to develop a nuclear bomb.

"To continue subsidising the Pakistan nuclear weapons effort with U.S. taxpayers' dollars is contrary to American security interests, if not a moral outrage," Sen. Cranston wrote in Friday's Washington Post.

The United States has a five-year, \$3.2 billion economic aid

and military sales agreement with Pakistan and a commitment to sell 40 advanced F-16 aircraft, of which about half have been delivered.

State Department Spokesman John Hughes told reporters: "We remain concerned about unsafeguarded nuclear activities in Pakistan. We have made our concerns known to the government of Pakistan at every appropriate opportunity."

He said the U.S. welcomed President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's statements that Pakistan would not acquire any nuclear device, but declined comment on Sen. Cranston's charges that Gen. Zia was continuing clandestine development of a nuclear bomb programme.

Reagan calls for free elections in East Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan called for free and democratic elections in Eastern Europe, saying he did not accept that the war-time Yalta agreement implied U.S. consent to a divided continent.

Addressing a White House luncheon marking the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw uprising against Nazi occupation forces, Mr. Reagan Friday said: "If there is a lesson to be learned from the history books, it is that Poland may be beaten down, but it is never defeated."

He told guests including Polish-American leaders and wartime resistance fighters that he would ask Congress to allot \$10 million for a project to help Polish farmers.

The president, who is gradually easing sanctions imposed against

Poland after the Warsaw government declared martial law in 1981, promised further relaxations if there was "a meaningful improvement in the human rights situation."

He said: "Let me state emphatically, we reject any interpretation of the Yalta Agreement that suggests American consent for the division of Europe into spheres of influence."

"On the contrary, we see that agreement as a pledge by the three great powers to restore full independence and to allow free and democratic elections in all countries liberated from the Nazis."

Mr. Reagan said he would continue to press for full compliance with the Yalta Agreement as well as the 1975 Helsinki Agreement on European security and human rights.

Republican convention to set Reagan on course for second term

By David Nagy

Reuter

DALLAS (R) — The Republican Party meets on Monday for a nominating convention that will give Ronald Reagan his chance to become the first U.S. president to serve two full four-year terms since Dwight Eisenhower left office in 1961.

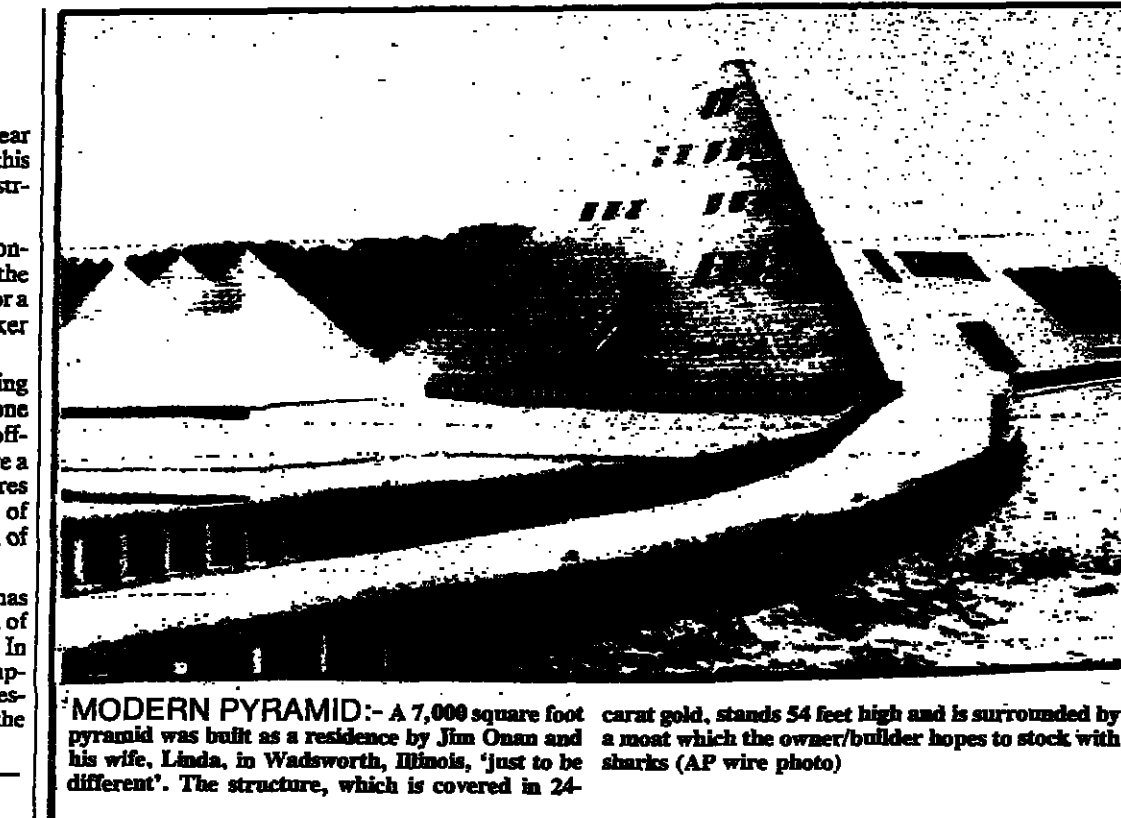
With the president's re-nomination assured, his opinion poll ratings strong and his party unified in virtual hero-worship of its leader, the Republicans only problem is how to create some excitement and regain the initiative from the historic Democratic ticket of Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro.

The four-day convention of 2,235 delegates is due to re-nominate Mr. Reagan, 73, and Vice-President George Bush, 60, by acclamation on Wednesday.

Otherwise, the party must count on fiery speeches by 1988 presidential hopefuls and top Republican women to stir interest and combat the "Ferraro factor" on the Democratic side.

Ms. Ferraro, a New York congresswoman, has ignited public interest as the first woman vice-presidential candidate of a major U.S. political party. Reagan Campaign Spokesman John Buckley said almost all of the people expected to be candidates for the 1988 Republican nomination would be present.

Besides Mr. Bush, who most analysts expected to win this year's nomination had Mr. Reagan not run, probable 1988 contenders due to address the convention are Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, Senator Robert Dole of Kansas and Representative Jack Kemp of New York.



MODERN PYRAMID — A 7,000 square foot pyramid was built as a residence by Jim Onan and his wife, Linda, in Wadsworth, Illinois, 'just to be different'. The structure, which is covered in 24-

U.N. Security Council says South African constitution violates charter

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council Friday night declared South Africa's new constitution null and void and contrary to the principles of the United Nations charter, but South Africa's ambassador said the resolution would have no effect on his country.

The resolution was backed by 13 of the council's 15 members. The United States and Britain abstained.

The Security Council also rejected in advance the results of elections later this month for separate mixed race and Asian chambers. They will function alongside South Africa's existing all-white house.

The constitution, which goes

into effect on Sept. 3, gives no representation to the country's black majority.

South Africa's Ambassador, Kurt Von Schmidt, said after the vote that "as far as we are concerned, the resolution will have absolutely no effect."

He said it was ridiculous for the council to act against his country when it was broadening its constitutional base.

African countries that initiated the two-day debate said the new arrangements would entrench the system of apartheid.

They also said one of the aims of the constitution was to make coloured and Asian people eligible for conscription into the South

African forces.

The resolution urged governments not to recognise the results of the forthcoming elections. It said only the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial democracy could lead to a just and lasting solution of the "explosive situation" in South Africa.

To avert possible vetoes by the United States and Britain, the resolution's eight Third-World sponsors dropped language saying Pretoria's policies threatened international peace and security. This might have led to sanctions against South Africa, already the target of a seven-year-old U.N. arms embargo.

Brazilian oil rig fire extinguished

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A fire aboard a Brazilian offshore oil rig where 36 people died Thursday has been put out, a spokesman for the state oil company Petrobras said Friday.

The blaze on the Enchova Platform, 60 miles off Rio de Janeiro state, had been extinguished by the time two U.S. fire experts from the Red Adair Company arrived

Friday, Petrobras Production Director Joel Renno told Reuters.

The fire injured none of the 220 workers aboard the Enchova, but 36 men drowned when cables lowering their rescue boat snapped and threw them into the water 18 metres below.

Mr. Renno said six men were being treated in hospital. There were no foreigners among the

dead or injured, he added.

The fire had caused \$25 million worth of damage. Another \$1.14 million would be lost daily until the rig began to operate again in 12 to 15 days, he said.

The rig, built in 1982 at a cost of \$82 million operates in the Campos Basin and has a normal daily output of 40,000 barrels, almost a tenth of Brazil's total production of 500,000 barrels per day.

Crisis flares in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO (R) — Security forces have sealed off the Dominican Republic Parliament, triggering a constitutional crisis in the Caribbean nation where bloody food riots occurred last April.

Crack troops wielding sub-machine guns and tear gas launchers Friday night blocked doors to the Congress, the scene of a constitutional wrangle between political blocs over who had been elected senate president.

Two opposing blocs on Thursday each elected what they claimed were senate presidents but neither recognised the other.

"This is a political crisis which threatens the constitutional order," said opposition Senator Francisco Ortega Canella after the troops were deployed.

Diplomatic sources said the dispute deepened political rifts in the Caribbean republic, recovering from bloody food riots last April

in which 55 people died. The street protests followed price rises decreed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a condition for renewing a \$450 million three-year loan.

Political sources said the troop operation was the latest twist in a battle for power between Jorge Blanco and former President Jacobo Majluta, both of whom belong to the centrist ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party.

Andrew Young attacks Mondale's staff

ATLANTA (R) — Atlanta's black Mayor Andrew Young described the leadership of Walter Mondale's Democratic presidential campaign as "smart-ass white boys" in an address to black journalists Friday.

Mr. Young told the national convention of the National Association of Black Journalists that Mr. Mondale's aides refused to listen to his advice about not trying to beat President Reagan on television and the need to seek the advice of mayors and other regional leaders.

"They are smart-ass white boys who think they know it all," Mr. Young said. "I can't afford to let them lose this election."

He added that if the Democrats

lost the November elections Mr. Mondale would go back to a lucrative law practice and his aides would run for Congress.

Maxine Isaacs, a Mondale spokeswoman, said she personally found Mr. Young's remarks unfair and objectionable. "Mr. Mondale has made a commitment that his campaign would be representative of this country in terms of minorities and women," she said.

After addressing the convention, Mr. Young said Mr. Mondale's campaign leaders were not only ignoring the advice of blacks but of everybody who offered to help.

But he added that black Americans should vote for Mr. Mon-

dale because of his outstanding record on civil rights and social justice.

Mr. Mondale Aide Dayton Duncan said the significant part of Mr. Young's remarks was his urging blacks to vote for Mr. Mondale. "That far outweighs any opinion he might have of individual staff members," Mr. Duncan said.

Mr. Young, an ordained Baptist minister and longtime associate of the Reverend Martin Luther King, was ambassador to the United Nations in the Carter administration in which Mr. Mondale served as vice-president.

Political observers could not recall a previous instance in which he made a remark which could be construed as a racial slur.

COLUMN

Swiss woman faces trial for killing diplomat

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — A 20-year-old Swiss woman is to stand trial in October on a charge of homicide in the savage slaying of a Saudi diplomat last year, court sources said Friday. The nude body of Abdul Aziz Al Mosallam, 51, who had been accredited as cultural attaché with the Saudi mission to the United Nations Office, was found March 10, 1983 in the small apartment he had rented at a Geneva luxury hotel. He had been strangled, stabbed in the heart, lungs and liver with a pair of scissors and sexually mutilated. An inquiry led to the arrest two months later of two Swiss part-time prostitutes and drug addicts whom he had met at a nightclub and invited to his apartment the night of the slaying. One of the two women, identified only as Marie-Rose M., was later quoted by the examining magistrate as telling interrogators she killed and mutilated the man in a frenzy because she suddenly remembered she had once been the victim of a gang-raping by five Arabs. Police said there was no evidence to back up her claim.

84-year-old man shoots grandson

VIENNA (R) — An 84-year-old man was arrested Friday on an attempted murder charge after he shot his grandson in the head in Vienna's Suidbahn Railway Station, police said. Police said a second shot fired by Richard Schmid at his grandson Harald, narrowly missed. The shooting followed a family row, they said.

Convicted MP refuses to resign

CARMARTHEN, Wales (R) — A British Labour Member of Parliament convicted for a sex offence refused Friday to give up his seat despite announcing earlier he would quit. Roger Thomas, 58, married with two children, was fined £75 (\$100) in January after being found guilty of importuning for immoral purposes at a public lavatory and later announced he would stand down. But on Friday he told his local South West Wales constituency in a letter he would not quit. Resignation would have meant a by-election.

Solo sailor overdue in Australia

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Solo sailor Bill Dunlop of Maine is more than a week overdue in Australia in his attempt to sail around the world in a 2.7-metre boat, his wife said Friday. In a telephone interview from Brisbane, Pam Dunlop told the evening express that her husband has not been heard from since he left the Cook Islands in the South Pacific eight weeks ago. "When Bill says he'll call, he calls," said Mrs. Dunlop.

Pakistani police kill 31 bandits

KARACHI (R) — At least 31 bandits have been killed and 157 arrested in Pakistan over the past six months, police said Saturday. They said 23 bandits were killed and 148 arrested in the southern division of Hyderabad. Eight died and nine were arrested last Thursday in the north. Police said they were still waiting for details of an anti-bandit drive in other areas of the country where they believe at least a dozen bandits have been killed and several dozens arrested.

Kennedy, son hurt in car crash

HYANNISPORT, Massachusetts (R) — Senator Edward Kennedy and his son Patrick were home Saturday after being treated in hospital for injuries received in a traffic accident. Sen. Kennedy suffered facial cuts and his son Patrick, 17, a gash in his forehead when their 1973 convertible car was in collision with a lorry, police said. The other passenger in the car, family friend Thomas Gargan, 13, was not injured. Jack Bell, 63, a Hyannis plumber driving the pickup truck, was treated for minor leg injuries and released. He was later charged with failure to stay in his own lane and driving to endanger life. The accident occurred in mid-afternoon as Kennedy was driving from the family home in Hyannisport to a nearby exhibition of gold coins.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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SPOTS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A K J 6
 ♥ 10 8 2
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ A 6 5 3

WEST **EAST**
 ♠ 9 4 ♠ Q 10 8 5
 ♥ 7 3 ♥ 5
 ♦ J 9 6 4 2 ♦ K 10 8 7
 ♣ J J 10 8 ♣ K 9 7 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 3 2
 ♥ A K Q J 9 6 4
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ 4

The bidding:
 South West North East
 4 Pass 6 Pass
 Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

If you are shown a bridge hand where the low cards are signified by an 'x', you might be looking at a misleading situation. To illustrate, on this hand it is the six and seven of spades that are the key to the winning line!

With seven tricks in hand and his side not vulnerable, South's opening bid of four hearts was eminently correct. North could hardly do less than raise to slam.

West led the queen of clubs, and a casual look at the hand diagram might lead you to believe that the best chance for slam is to try the spade finesse first. If that fails, you can next hope for a 3-3 spade division and, should that suit not split favorably, you can still fall back on a diamond finesse — a combined chance of about 84 percent.

Pretty good odds, but doomed to failure as the cards lie. Declarer looked deeper into the position, and

saw that he had a foolproof line as long as East had no more than four clubs. Declarer won the ace of clubs and ruffed a club high. He crossed back twice to the

table with the eight and ten of trumps, each time using the entry to ruff a club high. In the process he drew the outstanding trumps and stripped East of clubs. Now declarer led a spade. Had West played low, declarer intended to put in the board's six, forcing East to win and end playing him. However, West was awake and inserted the nine. Declarer won the king, returned to hand with the ace of trumps to bring about this position:

NORTH
 ♠ K J 6
 ♥ —
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ —

WEST **EAST**
 ♠ 4 ♠ Q 10 8 5
 ♥ — ♥ —
 ♦ J 9 6 4 ♦ K 10
 ♣ — ♣ —

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ —

South led a spade and, when West followed low, he inserted dummy's six. East won, but he was faced with losing options. Whether he returned a spade or a diamond, it would be into the table's major tenace and the slam would be home.

Note that declarer would make his contract even if West played a high spade on the second round of that suit. Declarer would finesse the jack and a similar end play would exist.